

# *The Moment*

AT THE CORNER OF 10TH AND STATE



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

Volume 30

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Issue 3



## Lent's Aligning Grace

March this year finds us deep in the heart of Lent, our annual pilgrimage taking us to Christ's act of courageous love at the cross, to God's astounding establishment of life at the resurrection.

As I have been reading, contemplating, and praying the bible's story of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and the cross, several things stand out for me.

The first thing is that the invitation to follow Jesus calls us to a radical alignment to God's way in the world. I am reminded what Teri McDowell Ott wrote for Day 5 of our Lenten Devotion: "Our news cycles are still filled with Herods — leaders who cling to power, stories driven by fear and outrage. Lent invites us to tune our hearts to a different frequency, to listen for God's ongoing work of liberation." Alignment with God's ways requires "tun[ing] our hearts to a different frequency." That's why the announcement of God's kingdom comes with the shout of repentance. Our journey with Jesus re-orient us to God's ways of humility, mercy, compassion, and peace-making (cf. Matthew 5).

Another thing that stands out for me—Alignment with the ways of God in Jesus doesn't necessarily mean agreement, understanding, and everything going smoothly! There are still problems and confusion, missteps and hurt feelings, challenges and bruised egos. But alignment does mean we are traveling with Jesus and that is good news to me. Jesus understands our messy, fault-filled decisions, acts, and lives. As Ott also reminds us: "[Jesus] steps fully into the human experience, into our muddy waters, so he can show us the way back into right relationship with God and with each other."

Another thing: our Lenten journey is taking place as this congregation is entering more transition. We have been through a lot of transition together! And we are excited about the fruitful work of our Pastor Nominating Committee leading to our congregational meeting on March 8. At this pivotal point in the church's life, the future is full of possibility and hope. But like our Lenten pilgrimage, even as it is full of God's mysterious working and grace, there will continue to be missteps and misunderstandings! So, I am driven to a conclusion (and my knees!): such a pilgrimage, such a transition calls us to prayer—prayer for God's grace to each of us, prayer for grace offered to one another, and prayer for the grace to keep taking the next step with one another.

*Lord Jesus, thank you for walking with this congregation through Lent and through transition. May we receive your mercy that we may be a people of mercy and compassion. Amen.*

*Pastor Kyle Otterbein*

**Remember, the session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, March 8**, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the congregational meeting is to receive the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee as they place in nomination the candidate for The Presbyterian Church's next called Minister of Word and Sacrament.

*Cover Photo: Julia Roberts, Joyce Spiceland, Jan Morgan, and Sarah Mayfield*



**A REMINDER: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** will begin on Sunday, March 8. Set your clocks forward on that Saturday! Be aware that most electronic devices change automatically, but manual clocks and watches need to be changed.

## A MESSAGE FROM CHURCHES UNITED IN CHRIST (CUICHM)

### CHURCHES UNITED IN CHRIST HELP MINISTRY

**CHURCHES UNITED IN CHRIST HELP MINISTRY (CUICHM)** is a shared outreach of several downtown Bowling Green congregations, working together to assist our Warren County community who are facing hardship. Through this ministry, individuals and families can receive help with utilities that is offered with compassion and guided by a set of shared principles. Individuals must bring their bill, identification, and social security card to apply for their once-a-year assistance.



Each participating church takes a turn serving as the “host” church once a month, opening its doors to listen, support, and offer assistance. It’s a simple rhythm of service, but one that reflects a deep commitment to loving the community and standing beside those who need a hand.

Have you ever wondered what our Financial Help Ministry makes possible? At the Presbyterian Church, we dedicate **\$12,000 each year** from the general fund to support individuals and families in real moments of need. This ministry is one of the quiet ways our church becomes a lifeline—helping with essentials like food, utilities, transportation, and emergency support when people have nowhere else to turn.

Each December, every dollar placed in **Buck in the Basket** goes directly to CUICHM, expanding the reach of this ministry at a time when needs are often greatest. Your generosity doesn’t just fund a program—it directly changes someone’s day, someone’s month, someone’s life. Last year we helped 187 families pay their electronic bill. **This was a total cost of \$20,196.**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FOOD DRIVE

**“FEED THE NEED” FOOD DRIVE** The United Way of Southern Kentucky’s initiative for the “Feed the Need” program is to ensure that the people facing hardship receive food assistance that they depend on. United Way is seeking dedicated volunteers for the *Feed the Need Food Drive* on Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28. This year, United Way has chosen our food pantry to receive all donated items — a tremendous opportunity to support families across Warren County who rely on us.

To make this effort a success, we’re asking volunteers to give just **2–3 hours** of their time during the shifts listed below:

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

Sorting Site Hours: Friday, March 27, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday March 28, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Your time and energy will directly help us feed local families who are counting on this support. If you can volunteer, please contact Fred Kernohan or Robin by email ([officeasst24@bgpres.org](mailto:officeasst24@bgpres.org)) or by calling 270-843-4707.



# LILLY HUNTER: A LENTEN REFLECTION



It is not often we get the privilege to sit with the idea of our own mortality. We live in a culture of busyness, in an age of busyness, and (predictably) lead lives of constant busyness. While much of this is in the name of progress, it also serves to distract us from pain and suffering—our own and the world around us. Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday is a chance to hit pause and consider that all of us are from dust, and to dust we will return. This Ash Wednesday, seeing the ashes applied to Willow reminded me not only of my own mortality but of my inability to control and protect my children. Even you, precious little one, are finite and ultimately belong to our gracious God alone. These sentiments can make us uncomfortable as we sit with them but are actually a gift. We are blessed with the ability to relinquish the white-knuckled grasp we hold on our lives and the lives of those we love—it is not our job to control them or worry over them. We belong to the God of Abundance and He is more merciful, more gracious, and more giving than we can possibly imagine. His vision of the good life for each of us is far beyond what we can ask or imagine. After all, in Matthew 6:25-27, 33-34 Jesus says:

“25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 32 For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

In this Lenten season as we walk the journey with Jesus to the cross, may we collectively lean into the joys and sorrows of the human experience, and seek his peaceable kingdom above all else. Breathe in his grace, breathe out our fear. We come from dust and to the dust we will return—but in the in between, he knows what we need.

## LENTEN DINNERS & PROGRAMS

**LENTEN DINNERS AND PROGRAM** The church will present a Lenten program for Wednesday evenings in Fellowship Hall. We will have dinner on March 4, 11, 18 and 25. Dinner will begin at 6:00pm followed by the program in Fellowship Hall.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN COOKING CLUB** will again be preparing Wednesday dinners for the Lenten season. Join them each Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. in the church kitchen as they chop, stir, and simmer their way toward a delicious meal—enjoying plenty of good conversation along the way.

They will gather on the following Wednesdays in March: March 4, 11, 21 and 25. You’re welcome to help for one, two, or join them weekly for all the gatherings! If you’re interested in joining the Cooking Club, please contact Mary Evans or Connie McGehan to express your interest. They are looking forward to cooking—and sharing fellowship with you!



# MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE AND TRIVIA FUNDRAISER

My first week with the youth, I asked them about some of their favorite things that they do as a group. At the top of the list for every high school student is the Montreat Youth Conference. They regaled me with stories of the friends they made, how their faith grew, the way they bonded with one another, and how it strengthened their confidence in their Presbyterian roots. Montreat has been a foundational experience for many in the church. Our prayer this year is to take 6 students to Youth Conference fully funded—this includes the prayer that at least 3 may get the opportunity to experience Montreat for the very first time! The Trivia Fundraiser allows us to offer the opportunity to grow at Montreat without the cost barrier. Not only will it be a fun and challenging fellowship event, but it will create a foundational experience for our teens!



## YOUTH GROUP

**TRIVIA LUNCH FUNDRAISER EVENT FOR MONTREAT** *Is your team ready to be crowned the ultimate trivia champion for our Trivia Lunch Fundraiser on March 29? Get ready for a Sunday afternoon full of laughs, friendly competition, and “Wait... I knew that!” moments. Our Youth will be hosting a playful, family-friendly trivia day, and we’d love for members and friends to be part of it. So bring a friend or a whole team, and let’s make this a day to remember.*



We need you to bring your best guesses, your brightest friends, and your biggest smiles. Whether you’re a trivia pro or just here for the food, there’s a place for you at the table. *What can you expect?* Lighthearted trivia for all ages, fellowship, laughter, a chance to support our Youth Group, and control of The Presbyterian Church—First Place 2026 Trivia Championship trophy. Let’s hope the questions don’t leave your team looking too bewildered.

The cost for this event is \$25 per person or \$150 per table. Teams of 4–6 are welcome, and we also offer table sponsorship opportunities. We look forward to see you there.

## EASTER LILLIES FOR PURCHASE

**EASTER LILLIES** will be available for purchase to honor or to remember loved ones on Easter Sunday. Forms will be available in our March 15 bulletin and the church office, to reserve a lily or to make a donation in honor of those special people. Fill one out and return it to the church please by Friday, March 27.

*The Symbolism of the Easter Lilly:* The trumpet shape of the Easter lily represents a trumpet sounding the message that **Jesus has risen**, and the nature in which lilies grow is symbolic of the Resurrection as well. <https://www.southernliving.com/holidays-occasions/easter/easter-lily-meaning>



# NATE STEIN AND THE SPIZZWINKS



**NATE STEIN** We are delighted to share with you that on Sunday, March 15, our congregation will be blessed with special musical guests, Nate Stein and several members of The Spizzwinks(?). They will be joining our choir in worship, offering their gifts of music and praise. We look forward to a joyful and uplifting service together. On Monday, March 16, the Youth Group will have a meet-up at the Capitol Art Center to hear The Spizzwinks.

**THE SPIZZWINKS(?)** SAVE THE DATE!! 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.

## PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER (PLC)

**Registration** for next year's classes is now open! Consider mentioning our PLC to any folks you know with children ages 2-4 for next season! Contact Kimberly Watkins at [plcdirector@bgpres.org](mailto:plcdirector@bgpres.org) or visit our website to enroll a child for classes next year. Thank you!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

### March 1

Betty Jo Beard  
Anna Sue Heller

### March 2

Jeane Smith

### March 8

Peggy Carthrae  
Buzz English

### March 10

Laura Parkerson

### March 12

Jeffrey Johnson

### March 14

Kate Grise

### March 15

Karol Ahmed

### March 22

Leigh Ballard

### March 23

Earlene Chelf  
Nina Njoku

### March 24

Barbara Hale-Solberg

### March 25

Bud Schlinker

### March 28

Clark Carthrae

### March 29

Mike Kanan

### March 30

Phillip Burkeen

### March 31

David Clarke



## Happy Birthday

# MARCH CALENDAR

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

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

## MARCH 2026

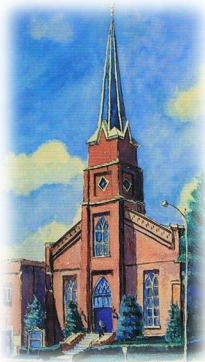
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:15am Sunday School Gathering 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School Begins 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 12:00pm After Church Eating Out Group 5:00pm Youth Group	<b>2</b> 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 12:00pm Personnel Meeting	<b>3</b> 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation	<b>4</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Lenten Dinner & Program	<b>5</b> 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn 7:00pm Neighborhood Group	<b>6</b> 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15am Sunday School Gathering 9:15am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School Begins 9:45 am Godly Play 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Congregational Meeting 12:00pm Lunch with Leaders 12:00pm After Church Eating Out Group 5:00pm Youth Group	<b>9</b> 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 12:00pm Circle 9 5:30pm Finance Ministry Meeting	<b>10</b> 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club 7:00pm Tuesday Evening Circle	<b>11</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Lenten Dinner & Program	<b>12</b> 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	<b>13</b> 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 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	<b>16</b> 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love 5:30pm Christian Ed. Ministry Meeting 7:30pm The Spizzwink Concert w/ Nate Stein-Capitol Arts	<b>17</b> 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspi  <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i>	<b>18</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner & Program	<b>19</b> 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	<b>20</b> 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group 6:00pm Crafting Group	<b>21</b> 10:00am Session and Deacon Meeting
<b>22</b> 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	<b>23</b> 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	<b>24</b> 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation 1:00pm CUICHM	<b>25</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:30am Crisis and New Creation Class 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Lenten Dinner & Program	<b>26</b> 6:00pm David's Room in the Inn	<b>27</b> 7:30am Men's Breakfast Group	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 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 Trivia Fundraiser	<b>30</b> 9:00am GOD/DOG Is Love	<b>31</b> 11:00am Special Care 12:00pm Inspirational Meditation				

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March



*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).  
March 15 is the deadline for the April 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)

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Dr. Wayne Pope	Choir Director
Mrs. Terry Johnson	Financial Administrator
Mrs. Beth Pope	Children's Music Director
Mr. Steve Moore	Treasurer
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