



Christ and the Samaritan Woman, 1796. Artist: Kauffmann, Angelica, 1741-1807*

Service for the Lord's Day

**March 8, 2026
Third Sunday in Lent**

Gathering Around the Word of Worship

Gathering Music

Mike Kanan

Striking of the Hour

Prelude *We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace* Spiritual/arr. William Appling

*We shall walk through the valley of the shadow of death. We shall walk through the valley in peace!
And if Jesus himself shall be our leader we shall walk through the valley in peace! There will be no
sorrowing there. And if Jesus himself shall be our leader we shall walk through the valley in peace!*

Welcome

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

Call to Worship (responsive)

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise to God with
songs of praise.**

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Opening Hymn 81

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Adoration and Confession (unison)

O God, you are lord of the day and the night, the city and the wilderness. We praise you. As we wander through the wilderness this Lent, we are aware of our need for your presence, your love, and your guidance on life's journey. Forgive us for turning away from you. Forgive our doubt and uncertainty that led us to place our faith in worldly comforts that don't run deep enough and don't last. We come to your well this Lent desperate and thirsty for Christ's living water. Quench our thirst, we pray. Grant us your forgiveness and your grace. 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)

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." Hear the good news: you are forgiven in Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace (responsive)

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

A Time with Young Christians (children welcomed to the front of the sanctuary)

Hearing the Word

All Sit

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving Word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts — a spring of hope for a thirsty world. Amen.

Old Testament Reading (responsive)

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"

But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Anthem*Have Mercy, O Lord*

Jacob Arcadelt/arr. Hal H. Hopson

Have mercy, O Lord. By your steadfast love remove all my sins; in your mercy, hear me. Against you, you alone, against you have I sinned, O Lord. May truth be in my heart, may wisdom guide my being. Restore the joy. Your salvation now send; then will I sing, then will I sing your glory. O hear my prayer; Lord, in your mercy, hear us. Amen.

Gospel Reading

John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

All Sit
Sermon

The Flow of Conversation

Rev. Kyle Otterbein

Responding to the Word

All Stand
Response Hymn 440

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

ABERYSTWYTH

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

All Sit
Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory

Pari intervallo

Arvo Pärt

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 your generosity in causing springs of living water to spring up. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing, and the destitute. Amen.

All Sit
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 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

Benediction

Postlude

Iste confessor, verse 2

Jehan Titelouze

.....
City: Munich, Germany.

Announcements

USHERS: Polen and Thomison families

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

LAY READER: Rob Hale

MEDIA PERSONNEL: Laura Parkerson

NURSERY: Yamilet Bruno Sanchez and Maya Swartz

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY March 15: 1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41

TODAY

DEACON OF THE WEEK this week will be Phil Burkeen. 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 Fund. Buck in a Basket Offering is a weekly opportunity to consider contributing during the offering for a particular mission not included in our regular budget.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will occur immediately after our worship today. 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.

THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP will meet today after our congregational meeting at Sankalp Restaurant, 110 Orange Ct (behind Zaxby's on Scottsville Road). 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!

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.

OTHER NEWS

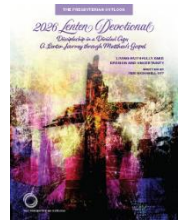
YOUTH MEALS Are you interested in providing a home-cooked meal or purchasing a meal for our youth? We are seeking volunteers for meals for our youth during our Sunday group meeting. If you are interested in volunteering, a sign-up sheet is available in the church landing.

LENTEN DINNERS AND PROGRAM The church will present a Lenten program for Wednesday evenings in Fellowship Hall. On Wednesday, March 11, dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by the program in Fellowship Hall. The menu for this Wednesday's Lenten Dinner is meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, rolls, and 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 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!

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.



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).



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.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT will be Saturday March 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Fred and Debbie Trickey (807 Highland Way). All children up through 5th grade welcome! Separate hunting areas for Preschool and Elementary. We will have a cake walk, games, crafts and more! Invite your friends with children/grandchildren to join us! Rainy weather will move us to the church. If you would like to donate individually wrapped candy for our eggs or items for the cake walk, please bring it to the church office. For more information speak to Lilly Hunter or Mary Evans.

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

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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 8

9:15 a.m. Sunday School Gathering
9:15 a.m. Children's Music
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Circle
9:45 a.m. Godly Play
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
12:00 p.m. After Church Eating Out Group
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, March 9

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love
12:00 p.m. Circle 9
5:30 p.m. Finance Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, March 10

11:00 a.m. Special Care
12:00 p.m. Inspirational Meditation
7:00 p.m. Sunny 16 Camera Club
7:00 p.m. Tuesday Evening Circle

Wednesday, March 11

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 12

6:00 p.m. David's Room in the Inn

Friday, March 13

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

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

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