



Presbyterian Courier

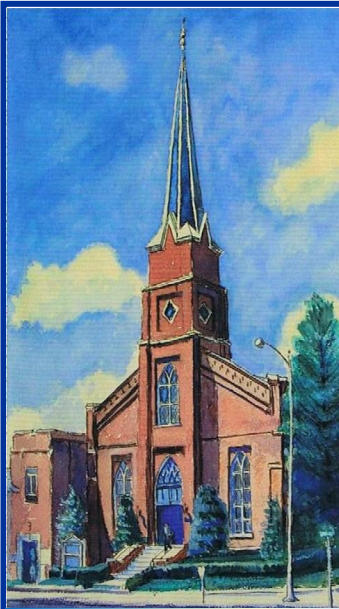
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY



Volume 24

March 2020

Issue 3



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Pastor's Column

We're having a very good response from folks in the congregation who have been reading the Bible together. Our program is being run using a helpful web site: BibleStudyTogether.com. Daily Bible readings will allow us to read the entire Bible in two years. No single day's reading requires more than 10 minutes. So far, so good.

My reason for writing now is to offer some advice about how to "stick with it." It takes a while to make something a daily habit, and if Bible reading isn't a habit yet, you may be finding it difficult.

Here are some useful ideas.

If you miss a day (or two) just pick it up from there.

The BibleStudyTogether.com application keeps up with which Bible reading is due each day, so you can easily begin again without feeling that you need to "catch up."

Pick a particular time of day to do your reading. This will help trigger the habit each day, and will also help you be sure you are setting aside time in your schedule.

You may want to arrange to talk to a friend regularly about your reading. Having someone who is expecting you to read creates accountability. You will be less likely to forget to read if you know someone is counting on you!

Use the recorded reading on the app to get the readings read to you each day. This feels different from reading them yourself, and changing up from reading to being read to will keep the experience fresh.

Consider journaling. This is another kind of accountability (see #3 above). If you write your thoughts down regularly, you will be reflecting on the reading, and your journal will become a partner.

Pray when you read. This program is not meant to be a chore.

We're reading the Bible together in two years as a spiritual exercise. Prayer will deepen your experience.

Join one of our (planned) small groups. We are hoping to get folks together for fun discussion. Look to see when these are scheduled.

Remember that reading the Bible is actually a way of engaging the majesty and mystery of God. If you read the selections every day, good for you. If you miss a time of two, don't be discouraged. If you participate in reading the Bible, you will discover a deeper connection to our Creator. It's a good deal.

And know you are loved,

Matthew

Christian Education



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be June 7-10 at Christ Episcopal Church. 5:30 is dinner, followed by our program from 6:00-8:00pm. All children who will be 3 years by July 31 to rising 5th grade, are eligible. More information to come as we get closer. Volunteers, both adult and youth, will also be needed. Our theme this year is "Great Big Beautiful World?" and we will be learning about Creation and working on some projects to help our earth!

OUR EASTER EGG HUNT is Saturday April 11th, at the Franklin 'Farm' - at 1740 Greenview Lane.

WE NEED DONATIONS OF INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY!

Please bring to the office for David or Leslee. We will gather at 10:30 and enjoy fun Easter-themed activities, our egg hunt and more! We finish by noon. Invite a friend to join us that morning. (In event of rain, we hunt at the church!)



Donations of individual baked goods will be needed for our Egg Hunt – cupcakes, brownies, cookies, etc. Our Cake Walk is ever popular and the treats are much enjoyed and appreciated. Those items should be brought to the office on April 9 or 10th only.

LENT BEGAN with Ash Wednesday, February 26. Each week during Lent, join us for worship at 6:05pm in the Sanctuary (no dinner). We have Lenten devotional guides available – *Becoming a Beloved Community – A Matthew 25 Journey to the Cross*. As we are part of the national church's Matthew 25 Invitation, this is one way to build faith and learn more about the Invitation.

FAMILY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL CALENDARS are also available. If you did not get one, please pick one up outside the office. Simple, daily activities designed to help you and your children grow in faith!

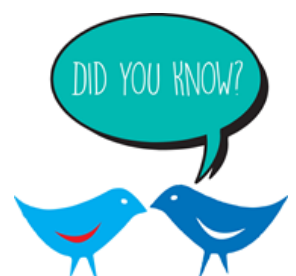


DURING LENT, we have an exciting opportunity for our congregation to learn more about the Matthew 25 project. Each Sunday we will gather in the Conference Room to hear special speakers, tell stories, be challenged and more.

Our schedule includes:

March 1 – Rhondell Miller from HOTEL, INC, will be here to talk about systemic poverty; **March 8**, Judy Whitson will continue the conversations around poverty; **March 15 & 22** we will explore *Neighborhood Church* and church vitality (which Ray Jones introduced us to on February 23). **March 29** we are excited to welcome the Rev. Denise Anderson, former co-moderator of the 222nd General Assembly. She will help us understand structural racism. On **April 5**, we will continue the conversations. Our Deacons are (with the help of the CE Ministry) leading the way on our Matthew 25 work. These classes are important for all adults as we move into living more fully this invitation.

80% of people who join a church are **INVITED by someone they know!** Be sure to extend the loving hand of fellowship and invitation to those you know who don't have a church home. We have great things going on and we need everyone to spread the word!



Christian Education



LENT IS A TIME of preparation and penitence. Often, we seek to go deeper and grow in faith by giving up something. That can be helpful, but so can adding a simple practice to your daily routine. Here are some activities for you to consider adding (while some may specify a particular age, *most* can be used by all families).

Children are often curious about their name – why did mom and dad give them that particular name? Here's a way to explore family heritage and grow in faith:

<https://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/item/my-name>

Giving up something for Lent is popular, but can sometimes be hard to maintain. If your family 'gangs up' on Lent, you might just be able to keep that 'vow' and grow in faith together:

<https://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/item/gang-up-on-lent>

Adults (or families with teens) can study Matthew's account of Jesus in the wilderness, especially as we enter Lent: <https://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/item/a-lenten-wilderness>



PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER has registration open for next year! We have a top-notch preschool for 2, 3 and 4 year old children. Packets with registration information is available in the office.

WELCOME JENNI MEREDITH! Our Preschool has just had a significant staff change! Dana Patterson, who had been with us for nearly 14 years, has taken the Executive Directorship of the Literacy Center in Franklin, KY. This was not anticipated, but an opportunity that came about quickly. And because God is faithful, we were able to hire Jenni Meredith to be both our Director and 4s teacher. Jenni is a Bowling Green transplant via Western Kentucky University, originally from Hopkinsville, KY. She came to WKU in the fall of 2003, completing a Bachelors and Master's degree in Elementary Education. She met her husband, Ryan Meredith, a Bowling Green native in 2007 and has been happily married for almost 12 years. They have 3 beautiful children, Zoey (10), Evie Jo (7) and Kash (4). She worked in public education at Briarwood Elementary before staying at home with her children. Through a dear friend she was introduced to the PLC and our wonderful program. Currently her youngest (Kash) is enrolled in our 4's class and will tell you the PLC is one of his favorite places! Help us welcome Jenni!

BECAUSE DANA'S DEPARTURE WAS SUDDEN, we have not had an opportunity to formally honor her work (yet). We are collecting donations for a Love Gift. If you wish to contribute, please make your check to TPC and put 'Dana Love Gift' in the memo line.

SOMETHING NEW! July 6-9, MUSIC AND ART CAMP! 5:30-8:00pm. For children who will be rising into 1st through 12th grade (one group for elementary, one for youth). Dinner at 5:30pm, followed by an hour of music or art (then switch). Registration to open around Easter. Adult volunteers will be needed (NO art or music experience needed). See Heather or Leslee Kirkconnell with questions.



Church and Community



Maundy THURSDAY

HELP WILL BE NEEDED on **Maundy Thursday**, April 9. We have dinner at 6:00pm, followed by worship in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. Set up, serving and clean up hands all needed. Visit our sign up genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094AA9AB2CA7F49-maundy>

(Please let the office know if you plan to attend the meal so we can set enough places.)

PLEASE JOIN US DURING LENT on Wednesday evenings for Lenten Worship. We will gather in the Sanctuary at 6:05pm for worship, following the chancel choir meeting time. (We will not be gathering for dinners this Lenten season except for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.) Worship evenings will be Wednesdays March 4-April 1.



GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

On Good Friday, April 10, we will have worship in the Sanctuary at 12:00pm. All are welcome; bring a friend for this special Good Friday service.



NOON WORSHIP FOR HOLY WEEK Join us during this ecumenical time of worship on each day of Holy Week. The community may gather at 12 noon at a different church each day for worship, followed by a light lunch. The schedule is still to be announced, but watch for more news coming soon.

EASTER IS APRIL 12. We will have our early Sunrise service, followed by fellowship and then Sunday School at 9:30am. Bring a breakfast item to share, we'll gather beginning at 8:30am (please come when you can). We will have cereal and milk here, we would love your casseroles, sweet breads, fruit, etc.

Easter Sunday

7:30am Sunrise Worship
8:30am Fellowship and Breakfast
9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Easter Worship



Church and Community

CALLING ALL RINGERS! Rehearsals for Easter Sunday will begin Sunday, March 15th at 4:30-5 p.m., and continuing weekly through April 5th. No experience is necessary to join bells; we welcome everyone!

Heather Kirkconnell will be hosting a bell ringing workshop for all ages 11 and up on Saturday, March 14th from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Anyone interested in learning about handbells is welcome. **No commitment or prior experience required.** We will be learning about handbell techniques for all levels of ringing, including four-in-hand or "shelley style". If you would like to try out handbells, refresh your knowledge, or improve your playing this workshop is for you. Please see Heather Kirkconnell for more information.

Handbell Workshop

For beginners and experienced ringers alike, and anyone who wants to try it out!

Saturday, March 14, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

An opportunity to learn and practice techniques such as four in a hand, thumb and table damping, and more!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who responded to our Christian Education Survey. We had 40 responses. The Christian Education Ministry has begun the process of reviewing the surveys and making plans to implement some of the great suggestions. A total of 28 people who are participating in the Bible Study Together indicated they would be interested in either a weekly or monthly gathering for more in-depth study or in a closed Facebook group to share thoughts. If you are interested in joining with others for some Bible Study Together sessions (face-to-face or Facebook), you are invited to meet with Mary Evans and Leslee Kirkconnell after worship on **March 8** in the Fellowship Hall for a brief organizational meeting. The Christian Education Ministry is always looking for new members and new ideas. If you would like to join this committee or have ideas or suggestions to share, please speak to one of the following: Mary Evans (chair), Catherine Reber, Shannon Dyche, Julia Roberts, Mike Kanan, Diane Simmons, Judy Whitson, Nathan Love, Nancy Hulan, or Wayne Hendrix.

CHURCH LIBRARY During Month of March, books not usable to the Church Library and/or the outside library will be displayed on the double window in Fellowship Hall. Please take any you can use. Those not taken will be donated to City Library for their book sales.

EASTER LILIES will be available for purchase to honor or remember loved ones on Easter Sunday. Forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins, or in the church office, to reserve a lily or to make a donation in honor of those special people.



Church and Community

POTATO PARTY AND BAKE SALE - GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY MARCH 15TH—Join us at 11:30am after worship on March 15th for the Potato Party! Sponsored by our youth group—enjoy a fun lunch and fellowship. Baked goods will be for sale as well, and all proceeds will help to fund summer youth group trips.



THE CURRENT ART EXHIBIT featured in the Fellowship Hall is from **Arts for All KY**. It is a non-profit organization that sends a call each year to Kentucky Schools requesting art by disabled students from grades K – 12. Selected work is placed in a traveling exhibition throughout the state. The purpose of Arts for All is to encourage art and creativity among the state's most vulnerable students. Works may be purchased with a \$50,00 donation to For more information contact Delaire Rowe at 270-762-0023 or email programs@artsforallky.org.

Also— Please watch for info coming soon about the next **Gallery Hop** in Fellowship Hall, scheduled for Friday, March 20th!

CIRCLES in MARCH -

CIRCLE 3 will meet on Monday, March 2nd at 11:00am at Village Manor. **CIRCLE 6** will meet on Wednesday, March 4th at 9:30am at the home of Betty Jo Beard (1420 Euclid Ave. - Please note the **change** of date and time!) The **SUNDAY MORNING CIRCLE** will meet Sunday, March 8th at 9:45am. **CIRCLE 9** will meet on Monday, March 9th at 11:30am. The **TUESDAY EVENING CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00pm. The **WEDNESDAY MORNING CIRCLE** will meet on Wednesday, March 11th at 9:15am in the youth room.

TIME CHANGE On March 8th we will be springing forward for Daylight Savings Time. Please remember to set your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night, March 7th.



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the following members and friends of this church who have recently lost loved ones:

*To Cameron Pauquette, Scott Koven, and their family
in the death of Dot Koven*

To Connie DeVries in the death of her husband Frederick DeVries

Missions



BUCK IN A BASKET FOR MARCH will help our Food Pantry. We have seen a steadily increased demand for food bags over the past six months (probably longer). Your extra gifts will help us purchase items needed as needed, which helps us provide a good bag of groceries. We are also deeply appreciative of donations of canned goods, dry beans, rice etc. God multiplies all our gifts to help those who are food-insecure.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING for January – March will go toward Clean Up Buckets. These items, used by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Service, are extremely helpful in the immediate aftermath of some type of disaster. Barbara Solberg-Hale is leading this effort with our youth. Each bucket costs about \$75 to stock, so every \$ is helpful. And we are grateful for your gifts to Buck in a Basket during February for this effort as well! This month the youth will shop and assemble the buckets and we will let you know how many we were able to send.

SUNDAY MARCH 29 will be our first 3 Cents a Meal collection in worship for 2020. Our children and youth will come around with the big cans for your coins, bills and checks. \$8.10 is all it takes to 'fund' one quarter's worth of meals per person, but we are deeply grateful for all gifts! One third stays to help our Food Pantry and the remainder goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program to help address the root causes of hunger.



IT WAS WONDERFUL to have Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell here with us on February 16! If you missed them, or want to have more information, we have prayer cards with their information outside the office. It is good for us to pray for all those who are serving the Lord on our behalf-here in Bowling Green and all the way to the ends of the earth!



DRY BEANS, WHITE RICE needed for the Food Pantry. We will hold a bagging party soon, but our supplies of these staples are running low. Place in the marked drawer under the stairs. We always welcome non-perishable donations for the Pantry – canned goods, beans, rice, wrapped snack items, etc.

Our church Elders: Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Pam Bratcher, Mary Evans, Mike Kanan, John Kernohan, Jean Harris, Wayne Hendrix, Tim Leigh, Nathan Love, Nancy Moore, Mike Morse, Pamela Napier, Bud Schlinker, and David Sears. Our church Deacons: Angie Alexieff, Rider Allen, Rob Byrd, Sally Calkins, Judy Clark, Shannon Dyche, Ray Elms, Kim Ferguson, Kathleen Gildersleeve, Cathey Green, Linda Leigh, Debbie Morse, David Muffett, Annette Parkerson, Teri Polen, Ken Royse, Susan Thomison and Judy Whitson.

Session Report

There is a lot going on in our church and it is an exciting time to be part of our work and fellowship!

On January 11 the Elders, Deacons, Ministry team leaders all met to engage in a study and conversation on ways to share our fellowship in a larger way with our community. Over several hours we participated in conversations around Bible verses that we felt described our church, its mission, our fellowship its history and our future. Being a downtown church we have challenges of how best to serve this area and grow not just in numbers but in our discipleship as members in this community of faith.

Not merely wanting this to be about talking about it but really wanting to move forward with growth both in numbers of members but in who is here now we realized we need a dedicated team who would look at branding, telling the churches story and our mission of service and fellowship. Through our Deacon body a Taskforce has been created, made up of the good people who lead our Outreach, Evangelism and Membership committees along with two members of Session. They are in the beginning stages of their work but the excitement and energy that was present that January day and continue to bubble up now is a real encouragement.

That, along with our CE committees work on the Sunday School Survey (thank you to all who responded) our Read Through the Bible program (if you're not doing this let me encourage you to start, it's easy to do and extra good) our efforts to be sure that our fellowship program meets and exceeds our wants and needs along with our Finance committees work to meet budget needs and to think of means to encourage growth...well you get the idea!

A lot is going on! And a lot needs to go on. What's your favorite thing about our church? Have you shared it with family and friends? If not do so! Please share those feelings with any of our Elders, Ministers, Deacons, we may find ways to help you share them with others outside and inside our church!

You will be hearing a lot about this in the coming months and we will be excited to share it with you.

We are on-budget as we end January and our numbers in Worship have gone up slightly too! All of that is good. Our Youth program continues to grow and be active and we are especially blessed to have David lead us in this area.

We are now 201 years-old and today I am happy to tell you that with the energy and dedication of all of us we can be sure to pass along the heritage of faithful service to people for 200 more years! So with the Grace of God and His leadership together we can do this!

Have a blessed week and I look forward to seeing you at church, and bring a friend with you; we would all love to meet them!

-Tim Leigh, Clerk of Session

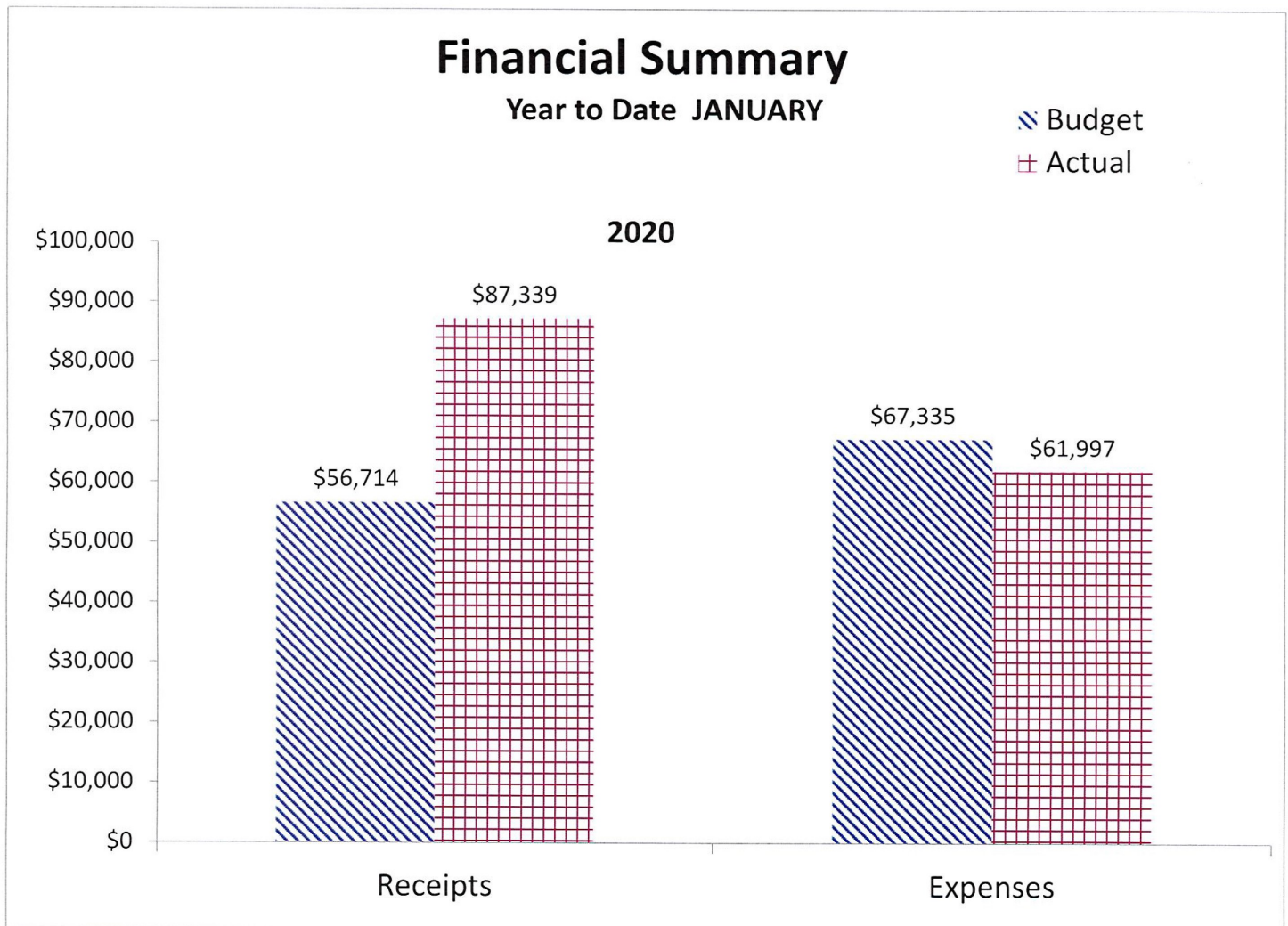
Youth Ministry

MARCH 15TH is our annual **Potato Party** fundraiser for our youth Summer trips. Please come along for an afternoon of food and fellowship! Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to sign up to bring items, you can find the link on the website or speak to David Clarke.

OUR SPRING BREAK weeks are split between county and city schools, so we will take the Sunday in the middle off as our break. This means there will be no Youth Group on Sunday, the 29th of March.



Financial Report



March Birthdays

March 1

Betty Jo Beard
Anna Sue Heller

March 3

Mary Kirkwood

March 7

Patty Greninger
Rita Rudloff

March 8

Peggy Carthrae
Buzz English

March 10

Lucinda Anderson

March 12

Jeffrey Johnson
Luke Johnson
Todd Kessler
Bryce Phillips

March 13

Emma Jean Kirby
Alex Maudlin

Katie Wyrick

March 14

Kate Grise

March 15

Karol Ahmed
Chuck Webb

March 16

Colton Nade

March 18

Beth Tyrie Rogers

March 19

Sarah Johnston
Kelly Wyrick

March 20

Will Barrick
Christine Long

March 21

Bob Hunt

March 22

Leigh Ballard

March 23

Earlene Chelf
Nina Njoku

March 24

Lynn Reeves

March 25

Emily Cooper
Bud Schlinker
Jamie Simpson

March 27

Henry Heller

March 28

Clark Carthrae

March 29

Sarah Ellis
Mike Kanan

March 30



Phillip Burkeen

March 31

Toni Stahl



March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Safe Sanct. workshop 5:00pm Youth Group	2 11:00am Circle 3 5:00pm Bible Study	3 11:00am Special Care 2:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Deacons	4 9:30am Circle 6 (date change) 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:05pm Lenten Worship	5 6:00pm RITI	6	7
8 <i>Time Change</i> 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Circle 10:30am Worship 11:30am CE Min. 5:00pm Youth Group	9 11:30am Circle 9 5:00pm Bible Study <i>WKU Spring Break</i>	10 11:00am Special Care 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Comm. Ed -Kitchen 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club 7:00pm Eve. Circle	11 9:15am Wed Morn Circle 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:05pm Lenten Worship	12 6:00pm RITI Ends 	13	14 9:30am Handbells workshop
15 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Potato Party	16 5:00pm Bible Study	17 8:00am Staff Planning 11:00am Special Care 11:00am Finance Min. 1:00pm CUICHM 5:00pm Comm. Ed -Kitchen 6:00pm Chairs mtg. 7:00pm Session	18 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:05pm Lenten Worship	19	20 5:00pm Gallery Hop	21
22 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Missions 5:00pm Youth Group	23 5:00pm Bible Study	24 11:00am Special Care 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Comm. Ed -Kitchen	25 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:05pm Lenten Worship	26	27	28
29 8:30am Fellowship 9:00am Children's Music 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	30 5:00pm Bible Study <i>City School breaks</i>	31 11:00am Special Care 2:00pm Staff Meeting				

The Presbyterian Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



"Our reason for being is to manifest the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed so that disciples are made by means of inspiring and engaging worship, relevant and reliable education, compassionate and caring fellowship, meaningful and magnanimous outreach, to the glory of God."

The full-color newsletter is online at www.bgpres.org.
March 15 is the deadline for the April 2020 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

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Leslee Kirkconnell	Director of Christian Education
Terry Johnson	Financial Administrator
David Clarke	Youth Ministry
Wayne Pope	Choir Director
Steve Moore	Treasurer
Cheryl Gregory	Secretary
Jenni Meredith	Director, Preschool Learning Center
Heather Kirkconnell	Children's Music
Cedric Whitney	Custodian
Barbara Solberg-Hale	Sunday Sexton
Tim Leigh	Clerk of Session