



Presbyterian Courier

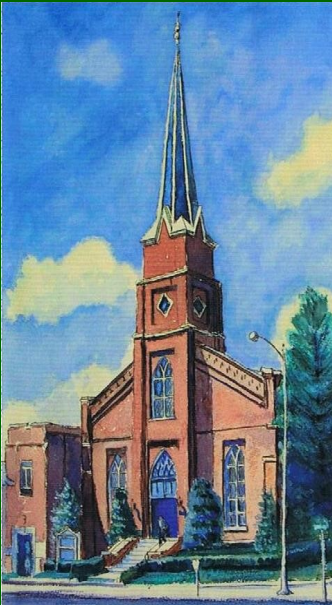
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY



Volume 25

January 2021

Issue 1



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Pastor's Column

You've Waited Long Enough. Let This Be the Year!

I hope that 2021, the new year, will be a good year. I hope it will be good for the people you love. I hope the new year will afford you pleasant adventures, and make some happy memories for you and yours.

A brand-new year can seem like a blank slate, waiting for your imprint. The prospect of turning the calendar page is full of fresh promise and new ideas. You can't help but look forward to whatever might be about to happen. The future is, as yet, unseen. But we tend to expect the best of the future.

Maybe It Feels Like a Gamble, But It's Not

The idea of hope and hoping may feel like a long-shot gamble, but it's not. We can borrow the words of Jeremiah: *"I know I have plans for you, says the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (Jeremiah 29:11) A more familiar text is this one: *"Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you will find, knock, and the door will be opened unto you."* (Matthew 7:7-8) Nothing is more predictable than God's unbounded, steadfast love.

Learning to Let God Love You

One of the participants in our Monday evening Round Table Pulpit Bible Study says that the main task of faith is simply to let God love you. Oddly, enough, it's easier said than done! Insecurities, suspicions, and fears get in the way. We tend to think we've got something to prove—to God or to ourselves. But the truth is, we only need to let God love us. We need to believe that, in God's eyes, we are good enough; and in thanksgiving, turn to God and work to serve God, since God loves us.

God's Love and The New Year

Your church, and your pastor, are turning a page in the calendar with you. 2021 looks like an important year for the spiritual health, and the financial health of The Presbyterian Church. Worship and outreach activities have continued unabated during the threat of covid-19 infection we've all endured. However, coming out of this period of social distancing and isolation is going to require renewed and rededicated commitments. Try to remember the verse: *"We love because [God] first loved us."* (1 John 4:19)

Let This Be the Year!

And always, know you are loved.

Matthew



Christian Education



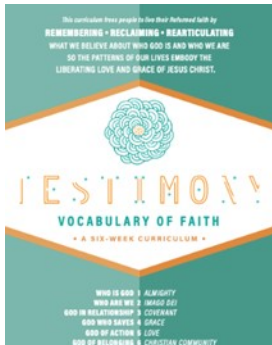
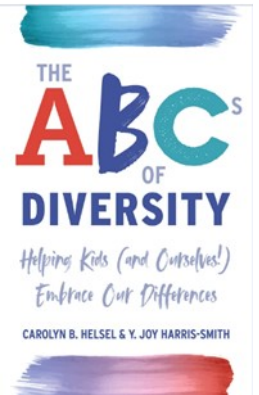
The WiredWORD

An Adult Curriculum

RETURNS JANUARY 3! 9:00am by zoom. Dr. Nathan Love will again lead us in discussing current events in a biblical and theological framework. If you want to be on our weekly email list to get the zoom link and the article, please contact Leslee

Kirkconnell (if you were on in November you are already 'in').

WE ARE RAISING OUR CHILDREN in a vastly different world than we experienced. Navigating these differences can be tricky and as Christians we have a call to love our neighbor as ourselves. And loving our neighbor is tricky when we don't KNOW our neighbor! This book, written by a PC(U.S.A.) pastor and professor at Austin Seminary and a NYC Special Education teacher who also teaches at Princeton Seminary, seeks to help parents (and those who work closely with children) learn to embrace our diversity in faithful and caring ways. We will read and discuss the book on Monday evenings in January by zoom, led by Heather and Leslee Kirkconnell. Books are available from Leslee.



TESTIMONY: REMEMBERING – RECLAIMING – REARTICULATING Join us for a six-week exploration of key elements of Reformed faith. Dr. Glenn Kirkconnell will lead this Wednesday evening study, 7:00pm by zoom. This new curriculum is designed by a solid team of PC(U.S.A.) educators and pastors and will help participants live into our Reformed faith. A mix of discussion, videos and more (and no prep needed, although there will be some items emailed out between sessions. Begins Wednesday January 6 and continues to February 10 (bringing us to Lent).

COFFEE & CONVERSATION CLASS resumes January 3 beginning with Joel and Amos. [Contact Margaret Stein](#) for more information. [Contact Leslee Kirkconnell](#) for the zoom link. The class meets beginning at 9:00am each Sunday. On January 10th, the Sunday PW Circle meets to discuss the month's lesson.

GODLY PLAY for our children (Kindergarten-5th grade) resumes on January 3rd at 9:00am with Dr. Mary Evans leading. [Contact Mary](#) for the zoom link.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE for information and updates. We have both a group and a page on Facebook. You 'like' the page and 'join' the group, and we encourage you to do both! Videos from Adult Sunday school classes are posted there, pictures, links to the live-stream worship, our Word for Wednesday and more. We are also on Twitter @bgpres and Instagram @bgpres. And don't forget to check our website as we keep that updated with what's new also!



Church and Community

CHURCH LIBRARY During the Pandemic, if you have spare time, now is a good time to GIVE books to the Church Library. I also have plenty of time to catalog them. --Arnie Petrus, Church Librarian.

Recent additions to the library:

All the People in the Bible 220.92L
Handy Religion Answer Book 296R
The Bible Through the Ages 220.09H
Born Amish 289G
My Utmost for His Highest 242.2C
All the Men of the Bible 220.92L
Connections 251.6G Volumes 1 and 2.
Beyond Words 242.2b
More Presbyterian Questions + Answers 285.137M
The Power of Habit 158.1D
Chapters into Verse 821.0 A
40 Day Journey, Bonhoeffer, 242 K
40 Day Journey, Martin Luther 230.41G



What Can I Do?

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I was a wise man, I would do my part; yet what can I give him: give him my heart. (In the Bleak Midwinter, Christina Rossetti 1872)

What Would Help the Church Serve Christ in 2021?

- Pray for the Church Daily.
- Look to See God's Hand at Work in Your life, and Tell Someone About It.
- Consider Your Financial Giving. Include Annual Giving, and Deferred Giving of Accumulated Wealth.
- Attend (or Attend Virtually) in Worship and Educational Opportunities.
- Ask Someone New to Join You in Church or Sunday School.
- Join the Bible Study Together On-line Bible Study: <https://biblestudytogether.com/bible-study-together-app-2/>
- Think About How the Church's Mission Statement: "Sharing the Vitality of Christ, Loving, Serving, Welcoming All" Can be a Daily Project in Your Own Life.



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

***To the family of Dorothy Willoughby
To Amelia R. Bigler in the death of her mother Carol Rollings
To Charlotte Prow in the death of her brother Richard Robinson***



Youth Ministries



OUR YOUTH GROUP will resume meeting again beginning on January 10th at 3pm. We will continue to meet in the fellowship hall in person, as long as it is safe to do so. Masks must be worn at all times. For more information speak to [David Clarke](#).

Stewardship/Finance Ministry

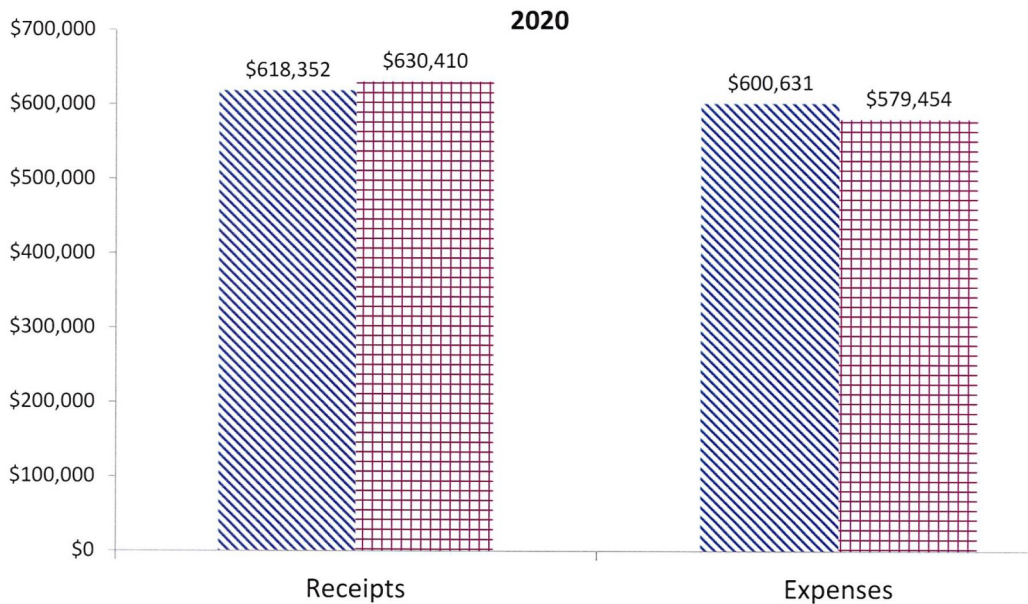
Financial Summary

Year to Date NOVEMBER

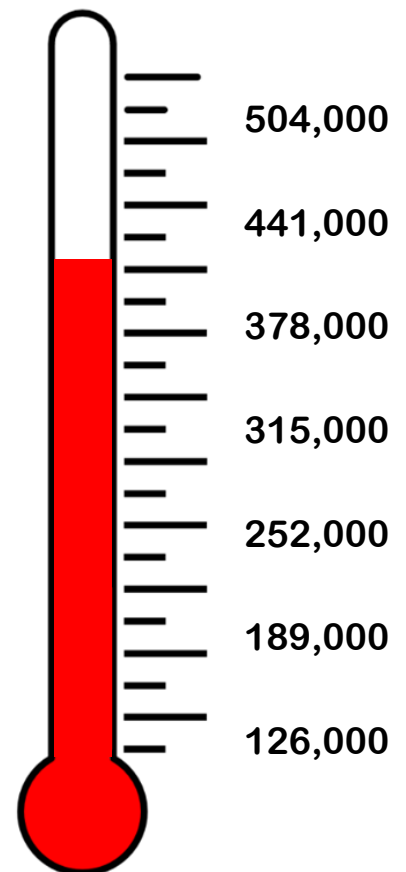
▨ Budget
▩ Actual

Total Budget 675,000

Expected
2021 Pledges



In order to make our budget for 2021, we estimate that we will need \$675,000 in pledges. As of this printing, we have received pledges for a total of \$425,943. Help us make our goal, and help us have a full year of ministry. And many thanks to those who have already turned in pledges!



Missions



MANY THANKS to all who helped bring holiday cheer to families through the Angel Tree! 20 families had a brighter Christmas because of your generosity. In the words of one mom (who picked up her gifts) 'I am so thankful for the gifts and it means so much, I just wish I could thank those personally who shopped.'

THE FOOD PANTRY continues to see increased demand. Any extra items you want to drop off, or order for delivery to us (some have sent cases from Amazon, etc) are very helpful! Canned fruit, vegetables, pasta, soup (NOT CONDENSED), tuna, chicken, chili, peanut butter, 1 pound bags of rice, beans, canned (NO GLASS please) tomato sauce etc.



BUCK IN A BASKET TRUE – we are not yet back in person, BUT your Mission Committee has a challenge for you! The Housing Authority helps keep kids connected on-line for school by purchasing internet hot spots, over 90 of them at a cost of \$10 each for a month. The Committee is challenging the congregation to donate our 'Buck' in a Basket for January to provide a month's worth of hot spots. That's \$900. If you are able, please send your donation for this particular cause to the church marked 'HA Hot Spots Challenge.' Even if we don't quite make the full amount, all donations are deeply appreciated and will help keep kids learning!

DAVID'S ROOM IN THE INN is helping shelter our homeless friends every Wednesday evening. Help is needed in a number of areas. Click here: <https://bgpres.org/serve/davids-room-in-the-inn> to find a way to help – and not all jobs require being here on Wednesdays!



January Birthdays

January 1

Allison Willian

January 4

Robert Dickey, Jr.

Harvey Johnston

January 5

Christine Burkeen

January 6

Matt Hunt

January 7

Eddie Solberg-Hale

Debbie Trickey

January 8

Alisa Anderson

Les Pfahl

Margaret Stein

January 11

Jennie Lou Hagans

Tom Moody

Ann Humphrey

January 12

Jim Stites

January 13

Tricia Just

Julia Roberts

Miles Small

January 14

Benjamin Crocker

Mary Lee Kelley

January 15

Page Beard

January 16

Duffy Hayes

January 17

Madalene Chandler

Chris Davenport

January 18

Mame Stone

January 19

David Rabold

Calvin Small

January 20

William Moore

January 22

Jim Stickles

January 23

Rawley Evans

January 25

Blake Moran

January 28

Benjamin Davenport

January 30

Evan Goad

Joe McFarland

Katie Thomison

January 31

Stone Begley



Nick Johnson



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, 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.

January Calendar

Please check our 60-Second email and bulletin announcements regularly. In our present Circumstances, scheduled events often change. Take care and stay safe!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed New Year's Day	2 Sat. Meals prep
3 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	4 5:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Group	5 7:00am Men's Prayer 2:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Deacons	6 6:00pm DRITI 6:00pm Testimony- Study (Zoom)	7	8	9 Sat. Meals prep
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3:00pm Youth Group tba	11 5:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Group	12 2:00pm Staff Meeting	13 6:00pm DRITI 6:00pm Testimony- Study	14	15	16 Sat. Meals prep
17 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3:00pm Youth Group tba	18 5:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Group	19 11:00am Finance Min. 1:00pm CUICHM 2:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Session	20 6:00pm DRITI 6:00pm Testimony- Study	21	22	23 Sat. Meals prep
24 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3:00pm Youth Group tba	25 5:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Group	26 2:00pm Staff Meeting	27 6:00pm DRITI 6:00pm Testimony- Study	28 7:00am Men's Prayer	29 Stat Report Deadline?	30 Sat. Meals prep
31 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3:00pm Youth Group tba						

The Presbyterian Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



January
2021



"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.
January 15 is the deadline for the February 2021 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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Director of Christian Education
Financial Administrator
Youth Ministry
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Treasurer
Secretary
Interim Director,
Preschool Learning Center
Children's Music
Custodian
Sunday Sexton
Clerk of Session