



Presbyterian Courier

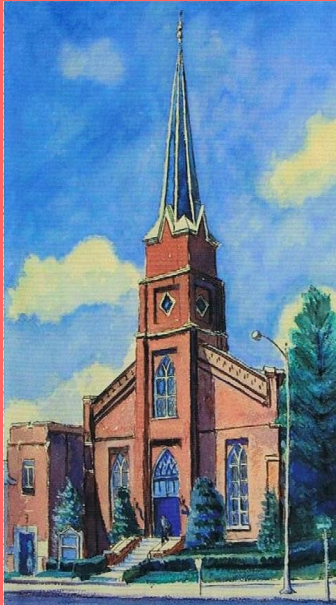
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY



Volume 25

May 2021

Issue 5



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Pastor's Column

The worst of the covid-19 pandemic is likely behind us. Now our congregation is ready to ask, "What's next?"

Most of the best self-studies for congregations ask the question, "If our church disappeared today, what would the community miss most?" Bowling Green would be down one steeple in the skyline. The Moore Insurance building and United Furniture would be out from under our shadow. The corner of 10th and State would look different. What else?

The Presbyterians, a people of generosity and quiet integrity, would be missed.

The gospel message of God's sovereignty demonstrated in forgiveness would have lost its staunchest voice.

A community of acceptance and welcome would be upended. A particular kind of piety; sincere, serious, humble, unforced, and based on the Word of God in the Bible, would have lost a happy home.

Services to the hungry, the homeless, the poor, children at risk, and (internationally) those without access to clean water would be lost.

Some words, words such as "sanctuary," "history," "gratitude," and "home," would be absent some of their meanings.

This is not an exhaustive list.

In the coming months, it will do us all well if we can consider making new beginnings, based on the strengths of our heritage, but anticipatory of a stronger future. God always intends renewal. For faith, the past is always prologue. The Holy Spirit is active, and will not let us rest on our oars.

Coming out of COVID, let's be renewed and feel renewed. Let's be strong and sure. Let's get busy with all that God in Christ has in store for us.

And know that you are loved.

Matthew

Christian Education

THE FLOYD HAYS ELLIS CLASS has resumed in-person classes at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall. Masks are required. Judy Whitson is the greeter, Arnie Petrus is Moderator, and Bob Hunt is teaching. The class is discussing the Sunday lectionary scriptures (emailed out each week). All are welcome, including NEWCOMERS and those in other classes – email Arnie Petrus at arniethetutor42@gmail.com (or call 270-904-0393) for more information. We are not yet doing any coffee fellowship.



THE WIRED WORD CLASS is meeting through May 16. We are pleased that Dr. Nathan Love is leading this class, by zoom. 9:00am on Sunday mornings. The zoom link will be available on our website and by email through contacting the church office.

Each week the current event story and biblical references will be emailed out, so contact the office to get on the list!

From May 23-June 27 we will **ENGAGE**. All adults are urged to join us for this time of Bible study and learning how we can be more comfortable sharing our faith story with others. This will be by zoom at 9:00am on Sundays. This is part of our Matthew 25 initiative.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES will continue through June 27, and then break until August 22, when we will have (modified) Rally Day.

YES WE ARE ON! It will look a bit different this year, but all children age 3 to rising 5th grade (July 31 age by) are invited. Our theme is 'Come to the Table,' and our Bible stories will center on stories involving meals (final schedule is in process). Registration, schedule and volunteer information coming soon, so stay tuned!



Our Seven Marks of Vital Congregations Study has concluded. The videos are available on our website from each class. If you were not able to join live, PLEASE watch the videos. Our life together will only be better for it.

RALLY DAY will be August 22. We will have our Mission Fair in Fellowship Hall with our mission partners as well as our ministries and committees with opportunities to serve. Sunday School will kick off at 9:30am. Following worship, plan to join us for OUTDOOR fun. We are working on some fun activities and food (outdoors). Stay tuned. *We are not yet planning any indoor meal/coffee opportunities.*



SMALL GROUPS are where it's at! Help us plan and fill out the survey that is included in this newsletter. You can also access the survey on our website and Facebook page. It will be in the bulletin as an insert as well. **YOUR CANDID FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT!** Even if you don't think you can participate at this time, we need to hear from you! Questions? Contact Mary Evans. maryameliaevans@gmail.com.



Small Group Survey

Small Group Interest Survey

This is an exciting time at The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green. We are thankful to be coming back together for in person worship, Sunday School, small groups, and fellowship activities in the near future. We want our church to be a place of belonging, acceptance, and greater meaning and purpose for our lives. Small groups are part of a vital congregation that is growing relationally and spiritually. We are planning to implement several small groups in the next six months and hope you will want to be involved.

1. Are you currently in a small group with our church? Yes No
2. Are you interested/looking to connect with others through a small group right now?
Yes No
3. If you answered NO above, it's because... (Check any that apply.)
____ I don't have time.
____ I serve in a ministry and cannot commit to both.
____ Small groups do not interest me.
____ Other (Please explain.) _____
4. If YES, which day(s) of the week would you be able to meet? **Check ALL that apply.**
____ Sunday ____ Monday ____ Tuesday
____ Wednesday ____ Thursday ____ Friday
____ Saturday
5. If YES, what meeting times are best for you? **Check ALL that apply.**
____ Early Morning ____ Mid-Morning ____ Lunchtime
____ Afternoon ____ Evening
6. What type of group interests you?
____ Women ____ Men ____ Couples
____ Co-Ed ____ Teen ____ Singles
____ Families

____ Other – (Please describe.) _____

Would you need childcare? Yes NO

7. Of the following, which would you most likely attend? **Check ALL that apply.**

____ Bible Study (lectionary based, book-by-book, life-focused, reading through the Bible) specify _____

____ Book Study

____ Getting Your Affairs in Order for End of Life

____ Household/Personal Finance

____ Outdoor activities (walking, hiking, cycling, running, gardening, golf, tennis) specify _____

____ Interest Groups (painting, drawing, quilting, embroidery, knitting, wood working, cooking/baking, photography, movies) specify _____

____ Day Trips/Traveling

____ Technology (basic computer use, social media) specify _____

____ Marriage/Relationships

____ Parenting

____ Social Justice

____ Service Projects

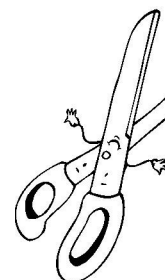
____ Eating Out (Breakfast, Lunch, or Dinner) Preferred Day and Time _____

Other interests not listed or additional comments:

Optional

Name:

Contact Information:



Small Group Survey

In God's Church Nobody Should Feel Left Out!

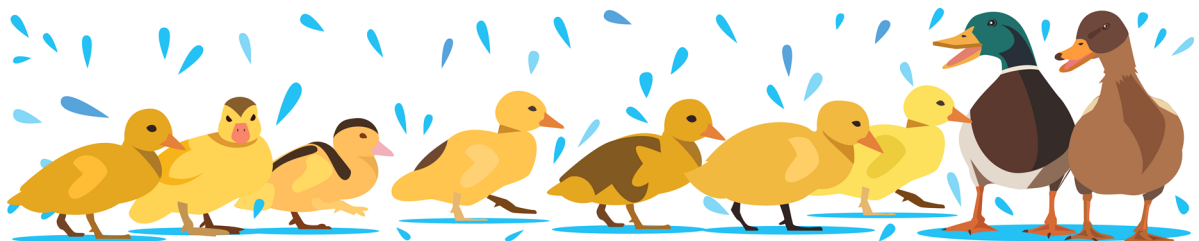
This is a heading we all can agree with: nobody should feel left out in God's church. Yes, we know that we all are one congregation, but we cannot be in contact with all other members. We have a group of people that we are in contact with—friends and family, but what if you come to our church and you don't have friends or family in the congregation? What if you don't make new friends easily? Are we sure nobody feels left out here at The Presbyterian Church?

God's church is a place where all should belong, all feel included. God makes us one body--we are not just a group of individuals. We all need each other. The concept of small groups helps us to organize the congregation in such a way that nobody feels left out. When each of us is a member of a small group we have a place to belong, to be noticed if absent, to be helped. Small groups are where we grow to know more about each other. We are all needed in a small group and being needed is an important pre-requisite to feeling accepted.

In God's church we are all responsible for one another because we all belong to one body. We have the responsibility to pray for each other, to help materially, to help when there is sickness, to encourage one another, to celebrate life's joys together, and to share one another's burdens. That is hard to do when we are only a part of the big congregation. Small groups help us be responsible for one another. We are able to know and love and care for the 8-10 people in our small group. And that is multiplied because everyone in each group is looking after each other!

The vision of the Small Groups Ministry is for everyone in our church to experience the transforming power of small groups in the next 3-5 years. The purposes of small groups are to connect and care for each other, to study and apply God's word to our lives, to serve those in need in our community, and to grow the church, spiritually and numerically.

We are planning to launch several new small groups in the next few months and hope you want to be involved. Included in this newsletter is a Survey to help the Small Group Task Force in planning. We anticipate having in-person options beginning at Rally Day, in addition to the groups already meeting. We need everyone's input on the survey – so please fill out and return by mail, by email or in the offering plate (for those included in Sunday's bulletins). THANK YOU for your important help in helping our church grow caring relationships through Small Groups!



Missions

HELP OUR MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE. Please consider giving a gift of \$25 toward a particular project – simply send your check designated ‘matching gift’ and which project (or you may name a child/youth, but we are not promoting individual competition between our young people).

Our projects/individuals are as follows:

Living Waters for the World: Ben Davenport, Millie Davenport, Barbara Solberg-Hale, Henry Hulan, Drew Ellington, and Amelia Seidler.

David’s Room in the Inn: Maddie Davenport, Claire Ellington, Nate Stein, McLaine Hudson, and Saint Carmichael.

HOTEL – Manna Mart: Emma Ahmed, Charlie Reber, Carlie Bowen, Cary Beth Bowen, and Kenny Crocker.

HELP Ministry (CUICHM): Laura Parkerson, Jake Ellington, Quinn Ellington, and David Yusk.

Habitat for Humanity: Sara Parkerson and Eddie Solberg-Hale.



This is a creative and (we hope) fun way to raise some funding for some of our favorite mission projects AND it involves our children and youth as well!



BUCK IN A BASKET FOR MAY will be for our Pentecost Butterfly Release (May 23, following worship). Butterflies are a sign of new life, and as pollinators, vitally important for our environment! We will have Painted Lady butterflies for all who attend worship on the 23rd (or you may just come at 11:15 and gather in the adjacent courtyard).

HABITAT AUCTION



OUR ANNUAL HABITAT/LIVING WATERS FUNDRAISER will return September 19. HOWEVER, it will look a bit different as we will not yet be gathering in Fellowship Hall for meals. We will need decadent desserts for auction and hope to have some other fun items as well. We may run a virtual auction, and we will have food and fellowship-just not inside our building. Stay tuned for details!

BACKPACKS FOR SUCCESS! We will be collecting backpacks and items to fill them for the Housing Authority. Our goal is 75 backpacks each to contain: pencil box, pencils, scissors (rounded tip), markers or crayons, filler paper (wide), composition notebook, glue sticks, personal pencil sharpener, one expo marker. Items may be dropped off at the office at any point. Our deadline will be mid-July.

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS! Indeed, much of what we do as a congregation doesn’t happen without dedicated individuals! Our Room in the Inn season was particularly challenging with the pandemic, and we have a special memento for those who helped – Rider Allen has been in contact with all DRITI volunteers so please stop by the office to get your thank you!

Youth Ministries

Our last Sunday of planned youth group in Fellowship hall is going to be May 16th. We will have our end-of-semester event away from the church, with the details still to be confirmed. For more information speak to [David Clarke](#).

Throughout the summer we will host different youth activities and events; these will be planned on a weekly basis and details will be sent out when they become available. If you would like to be included in the contact for the details, please speak to David Clarke

We are looking to build a ministry team to help run the sound and video during our church service. As we welcome people back into the building, we would like to increase the number of people capable of running our livestreams. If you are interested and would like to be trained (or already know how) please reach out to David or the office.



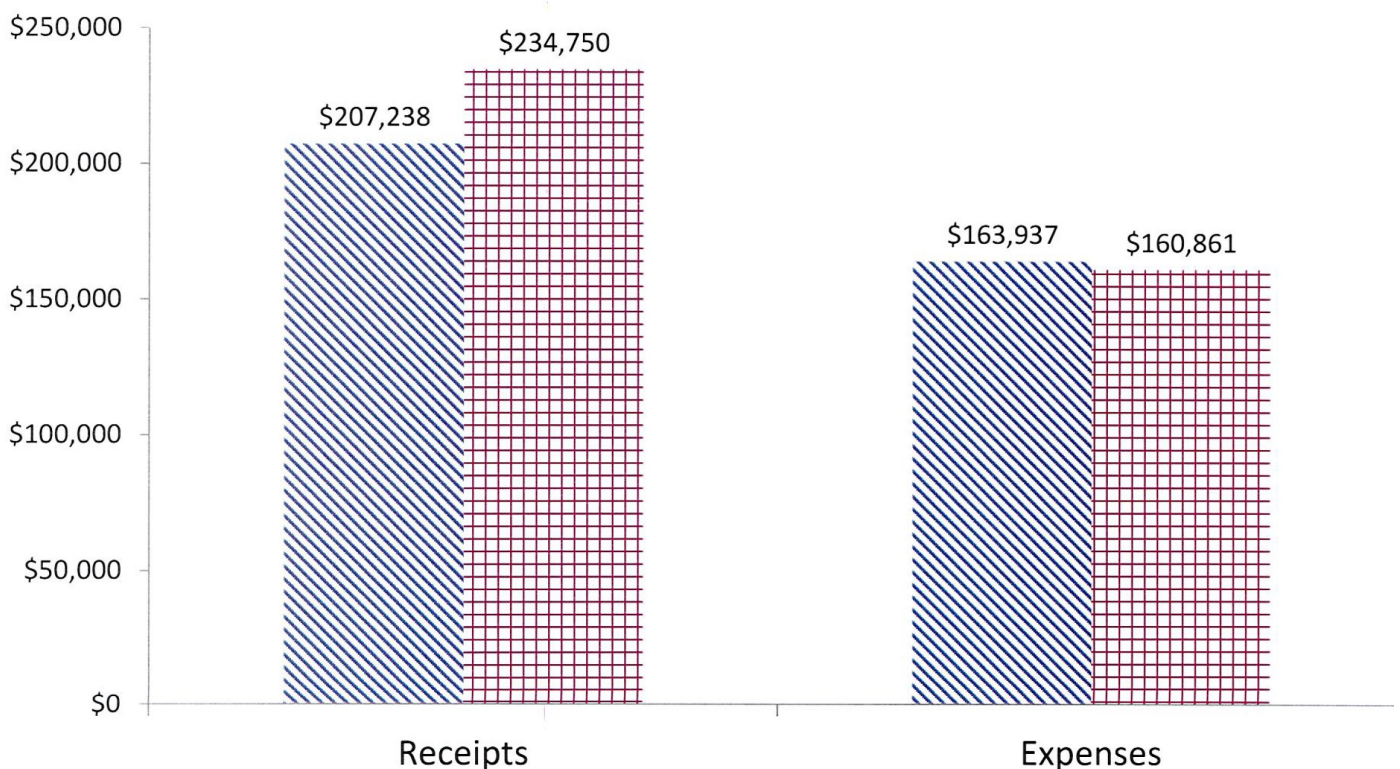
Finance Ministry

Financial Summary

Year to Date MARCH

2021

▨ Budget
▨ Actual



Church and Community

PIG PICKIN IS ON! Mark your calendar for Sunday August 15, 10:00am. Worship will be followed by our meal, at the Beard Pavilion. We are planning an event designed to keep us as safe as possible, while still enjoying an 'all-together' event!

This will NOT be a pot luck, but an 'all-in.' Our menu is set – Pork, buns, cornbread, cole slaw, potato salad, individual drinks and desserts. (You are welcome to bring your own side dish(s) as desired, but not for sharing.)

VOLUNTEERS are needed to make cole slaw, potato salad and corn bread. Leslee Kirkconnell will be coordinating food volunteers. David Thomison will coordinate other details (per usual) for the event. We will be more spaced out than usual and will ask that masks be worn, unless eating. Food will be served (we will have serving lines). If you are willing to make cole slaw, potato salad or corn bread (we need 6 volunteers for each to make 20-25 servings) please sign up here - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094AA9AB2CA7F49-pigpickin>. Or Leslee Kirkconnell can help with signing up. More information is to come about other volunteer needs as we get closer, but put the date on your calendar and plan to join us.



OUR PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER REGISTRATION for the 2021-22 school year continues. Visit our website - <https://bgpres.org/preschool> for enrollment information. Packets are available in the office. Tell your friends with young children about the best preschool in the area!

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday.

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.

Church and Community

PLEASE NOTE we are NOT hosting Coffee Fellowship nor meals in Fellowship Hall at the present time. We will monitor the situation, but ultimately we are following CDC guidance. It is likely we will not host any meals for the remainder of 2021, but plan alternate venues as needed. Thank you for your patience!

COOKIES AND LEMONADE ON THE SIDEWALK! We aren't able to gather for fellowship inside yet, but as the weather improves, we can gather on the sidewalk after worship for some cookies and lemonade! We hope to begin SUNDAY MAY 16. We will need help every Sunday.

Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094AA9AB2CA7F49-cookies>



We also need donations of INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED or prepackaged cookies. This way it is easy for folks to just pick up a baggie with 2-3 cookies along with their lemonade. Cookies can be brought to church anytime and placed in the freezer. We will also gratefully accept pre-packaged items (such as those you might get at Sam's, etc). Those can be dropped off at any time. Help us enjoy some fellowship and say to our downtown community - we are HERE!



WE ARE ENJOYING SEEING SO MANY BEAUTIFUL (MASKED) FACES EACH SUNDAY! Help us be prepared (for seating and for bulletins) by calling the office each week. And when you do come, PLEASE remember we must still keep safe distance - there are white dots on the pews to indicate where to sit.

PLEASE NOTE: BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS for the Sunday of May 15 will need to be turned in **early**. Cheryl will be out for vacation and is going to print 2 bulletins on May 7th. Please turn in all announcements for the issues of May 9 and May 15 by Wednesday, May 5. Thank you!



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

***Larry Warden in the death of his sister Beverly Gidcumb
To Matt Hunt in the recent death of his father***

May Birthdays

May 2

Mark Patton

Sarah Beth Shepherd

May 4

Delores Iverson

May 5

Emma Elliott

Vera Gramling

Barbara Howell

May 6

June Rose Garrott

Fred Trickey

May 7

David Sears

May 8

Gilbert Calhoun

May 9

Kenneth Crocker

May 11

Lynda Johnson

May 12

Addisyn Jackson

May 13

Caroline Hudson

May 14

Steve Moore

May 18

John Kernohan

Cathy Reynolds

May 19

Mandane Ennis

Drew Ellington

May 20

Robert Byrd

Alicia Carmichael

Gemma Webb

May 22

Caleb Johnson

Emma Simpson

May 24

Eric Bigler

May 25

Hart Carwell

May 26

Kathleen Gildersleeve

Pamela Napier

May 27

Mary Clemons

Peyton White

May 28

Matthew Byrd

Willie Byrd

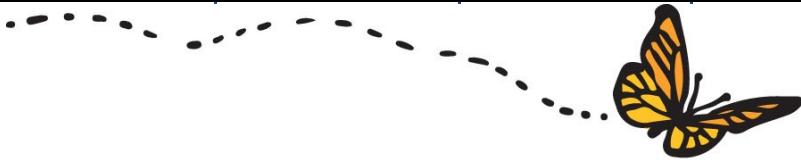

May 30

Karen Watson



May Calendar

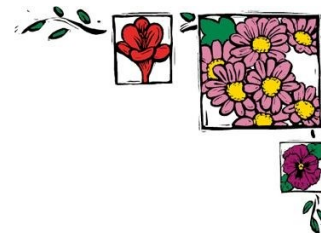
Please check our 60-Second email and bulletin announcements regularly. In our present circumstances, scheduled events often change. Take care and stay safe!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Sat. meals prep
2 Youth Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3:00pm Youth Group tba 3:00pm Winkie Huddleston svc.	3 5:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Study	4 2:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Deacons	5	6	7	8 Sat. meals prep 11:00am Joyce Hancock svc.
9 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3:00pm Youth Group tba	10 5:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Study	11 Presbytery meeting 7:00pm Sunny 16 Camera Club	12	13	14	15 Sat. meals prep
16 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3:00pm Youth Group tba	17 5:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Study	18 11:00am Finance Min. 1:00pm CUICHM 2:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Session	19	20	21	22 Sat. meals prep David Clarke graduation
23 Pentecost 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Butterfly Release 1:00-4:00pm PLC End-of-year event	24 5:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Study	25 2:00pm Staff Meeting	26	27	28	29 Sat. meals prep
30 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	31 Memorial Day Office Closed 5:00pm Bible Study					

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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.
May 15 is the deadline for the June 2021
newsletter. Please send your information to the
church office at info@bgpres.org

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www.bgpres.org

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