



Celebrating 114+ Years of Ministry

1906-2020

We are a church of ordinary people caring for one another
as we respond to God's call for a just and sustainable world.

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church

1722 Bardstown Road

Louisville, KY 40205

Volume 53

Issue 12

December

2020



Dear Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church, Happy Advent to you!!

I have a small gift for each of you this Christmas which I will find creative ways to get to each of you prior to December 6. I hope that many of you will consider reading and sharing in Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell's book "Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes; an Advent Study", and three virtual meals with another family or two on Sunday evenings December 6, 13, and 20. The three weeks of reading will parallel the Gospel being preached in the Sunday Services that morning. You will receive a more detailed schedule of readings and how the dinners work with your book.

Prior to arriving in Louisville to become the Pastor of Highland Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Cynthia was President of my seminary, McCormick Theological Seminary. Rev. Dr. Cynthia is now retired and still living in Louisville with her husband. I look forward to all of you sharing in her book together as one church family, and to potentially having Rev. Dr. Cynthia share with us some of her own thoughts about her book and Advent.

My hope is that you will all organically pair up for the Advent Dinners on Sundays December 6, 13, and 20, using what technology you have available to you to share in meals virtually. I know it is not the same as the energy of a full, in-person, table and sharing physical space together in Fellowship Hall, but many have been surprised that the facetime spent together is refreshing and life giving during our covid times.

Let's make the best of our Advent season - sharing in family traditions, recipes, decorations, and music that have been in our families for generations. I wonder what kind of creative projects might come out of this Advent Season? Could we create a 2021 BRPres Family Holiday Cookbook from the memories and conversations that we have in 2020? The next Christmas we are in person, could we share in some of the music that your families have traditionally shared? Next Advent, God-willing, might we base our in-person Advent Dinners on some of the traditions that we will have shared this year in our homes? I hope that you all find ways to gather safely, and share in the blessings of family traditions of our homes!

To God be all the Glory,

Pastor Mark

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Half of the Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church. It helps provide assistance to church workers and their families in need as well as retired church workers and their survivors.

For the PCUSA church workers who experience such challenges, the help of the Assistance Program, made possible by the Offering, is providential. Some grant recipients have likened it to God's "grace in action" and "the peace of Christ."

The other half of your Christmas Joy Offering provides much needed support for racial-ethnic students in higher education. Follow in the tradition of the wise men, and please give this Advent season. **The offering will be collected on Sunday December 20.**

Communion Dates for 2021

Jan. 3rd
 Feb. 7th
 Mar. 7th
 April 1st (Maundy Thursday)
 Apr. 4th (Easter)
 May 2nd
 May 23 (Pentecost)
 June 6th
 July 4th
 Aug. 1st
 Sept. 5th
 Oct. 3rd
 Nov. 7th
 Nov. 21st (Christ the King Sunday)
 Dec. 5th
 Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve)



STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your stewardship support – estimates of giving are now being collected for 2021.

END OF YEAR GIVING: A reminder that all charitable contributions must be postmarked (or delivered to the church office) by December 31st to be credited as a donation in 2020. Anything received after that date will be credited as a 2021 donation. Your prayers, financial support, and amazing generosity are truly inspiring and greatly appreciated as we share in ministry through BRPC.

BRAD HARRIS

Just a nod to Brad Harris who continues to assist BRP with technical matters. He is constant, talented, and devoted to helping BRP. Thank you Brad!

And don't forget the guy sitting next to him!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	Evelyn Overstreet	3
	Margot Tomsen	7
	George Dumbaugh	8
	Bill Bowman	8
	Laura Green	15
	Sarah Collins	16
	Ada Lear	17
	Leo Lear	19
	Kris Bloos	21
	Cathy, Miya & Meiling Moss	23
	Ian Johnson	26
	Joan Horton	28

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Mark Eldred	Pastor
Rev. Jim Brees	Pastoral Associate
Jeanie Grosz	Director of Music Ministries/ Organist
Sarah Hageman	Director of Children's and Youth Ministry
Corey Bullitt	Sexton
Johanna Fears	Office Manager
Marty Hageman	Treasurer

Editor, Johanna Fears

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NOVEMBER 17, 2020 SESSION SUMMARY

- The meeting was conducted by Zoom with everyone attending in their homes using our new technology of Zoom Pro. Several committee meetings have also used Zoom to gather remotely and safely.
- The brief devotion was by Rev. Eldred reading a poem by Mary Oliver titled "We Shake with Joy", which expressed the current feelings we share of joy and grief.
- The Moderator's Report included using the book "Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes: an Advent Study" by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell for study during the Advent season. A book has been purchased for each church family to study together during the four Sundays in Advent.
- The Treasurer's Report showed the expenses for the new video equipment for upgrading our Sunday services by Facebook, thanks to a grant received from Mid-Kentucky Presbytery.
- A Motion was approved to increase the salaries by 2% for the church staff. The 2% increase for the Pastor's salary will be presented to the Congregation at the Congregational Meeting in December.
- The Congregational Life Committee members have been contacting members at home with telephone calls and notes. The committee has divided church members listed in the directory into groups for making contacts.
- The recovery groups have begun using the church attending with a hybrid method that is partially in person and by Zoom to maintain safe distancing.
- Carol Brees reported that the Mission and Service Committee met with a couple who has been doing mission work in Africa and are now living in Shelbyville waiting for reassignment. Their efforts were very inspiring, and our church will try to provide future support for them.
- A motion was approved to increase paid time off for Johanna Fears from 1 week to 2 weeks for she has worked as Administrator/Office Manager for 10 years. The same motion included increasing paid time off for Jeanie Grosz from 2 weeks to 3 weeks for she has served as choir director for 26 years.
- A motion was approved that the church would not have any in-person involvement with the Bardstown Road Aglow activities but will have seasonal visual displays in front of the church.
- The Christmas Eve service is tentatively planned to have a 4:00 p.m. service that will be both in-person and live-streamed on Facebook. A video of that same service will be available to be viewed later at 11:00 p.m.*
- The Nativity Pageant on Christmas Day will be presented virtually. In the past, the Overstreet family has participated in this event.
- A Longest Night service is planned for December 21 (Winter Solstice) at 6:00 p.m. The service will have music and be contemplative for those dealing with hard times.
- The Congregational Meeting has been rescheduled to Sunday December 13 and will be by Zoom for action on the change to the Pastor's Terms of Call and the election of the Treasurer.

**All the Christmas events will be tentatively based on Kentucky health restrictions.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SARAH COLLINS!

Birthday Wishes to Sarah Collins, whose 90th birthday will be on **December 16**. Sarah has been a member of BRP for many years and was very active with the Women's Circles. When we were able to visit her, she loved to have us sing church Hymns. Her career was with the Louisville Telephone Company. She, and her sister Deliah, traveled a lot in their retirement years, preferring bus trips. Sarah grew up in Leavenworth, Indiana and still talks about it as home. If we were allowed, we'd have a card for everyone to sign to send to her, but with the Covid, that isn't possible. Therefore, the Congregational Life Committee encourages each of you to send Sarah a card - and mention that you are a member of Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church. Sarah's address is: Sarah Collins, Presbyterian Homes Westminster, 2116 Buechel Bank Road, Room #144, Louisville, KY 40218.

Caring for One Another...in Covid 19

How are you? I bet we all have been asked that 50 times in the last 9 months. So how are we doing? Some folks better than others I suspect, but we all have been affected by this pandemic.

Isolation, loneliness, disappointments seem to be the order of the day. Now we are told this "life" may take us far into 2021 or even 2022. (heaven forbid) Winter is coming. Days seem to end sooner as the dark rolls in. We will likely be more and more hesitant to venture out. It seems you can only watch just so many cooking shows.

Thinking about the coming months your Congregational Life committee has been talking about ways in which we can offer support and care to our BRP family. At our last meeting we divided the church directory into 6 groups. We simply went down the list and marked off about 12 people/families per committee member.

Perhaps a phone call, a card, a "share" on Facebook may put a spark of joy in our days and help to remind us that we are still part of this wonderful group of God's children.

You will be contacted by the member with your name soon. It is up to you how you want to "use" this contact. You may already know your caller...or you maybe not. This is not a one-way street. We hope there will be a back and forth relationship. The congregational life members don't claim to be free of any of the feelings mentioned here, so we need your support too. We are all in this together and that is a good thing. As always, we are open to ideas, comments, whatever. Peace of Christ be with you.

The congregational Life Committee:
Linda Bowman, Chr. Shirley Shaw, Secretary
Anne Campbell Jeanne Grosz
Becky Shafer Alicia Bloos

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Thank you to all who supported HCM through Give for Good and Empty Bowls, HCM's annual fundraiser to fight hunger. The virtual events necessitated by the pandemic were a great success, raising around \$12,465.

The need has increased during these challenging times. If you missed a chance to help previously, you may wish to contribute during **Giving Tuesday**, a global generosity movement, on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020. Give to HCM via the website www.hcmlouisville.org or mail checks to HCM, 1228 E. Breckinridge St., Box 2, Louisville, KY 40204.

The annual **HCM Christmas baskets** for needy neighbors will be different this year, too, due to Covid-19. We are asked to donate \$25 Walmart, Target, Kroger, or ValuMarket gift cards and throw blankets, to assist the over 100 families who have asked for assistance. Each recipient family will receive a throw blanket and several gift cards, the number depending on the size of the family.

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Purchase one or more \$25 gift cards and/or a throw blanket.
 - Drop off your donation at HCM, 1228 E. Breckenridge Street door, during drive-thru Elf-Day Drop-Off days (similar to the 2020 summer food drive drop-off):
 - Wednesday, Dec. 2** -- 1:00-3:00 P.M.
 - Thursday, Dec. 3** -- 1:00-3:00 P.M.
 - Friday, Dec. 4** -- 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
 - If you are unable to drop off during those days, contact HCM's IFAP and Senior Outreach Director Danah Smith, at 256-337-7047 or dsmith@hcmlouisville.org, to arrange an alternate time (gifts won't be distributed until a week or so later.)
 - Visit HCM's website, hcmlouisville.org, to donate directly.
- Questions? Contact Danah Smith (see above) or Alicia Bloos 502-496-0345

BRP OFFICE –WINTER GARB -BUS PASSES

It will be getting colder and colder. If **you have hats, gloves, scarves**, you would like to contribute to the office at BRP, please contact Johanna at 451-8305 to make arrangements to drop them off. We give to those in need who come to the office door.

If you can, please make a financial contribution to help with our purchase of **TARC Partner Passes**, as we have no budgeted money for passes this year. You can mail a check to church with "TARC passes" on the memo line.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

CEDAR RIDGE CAMP

Autumn Under the Cedars, the annual fundraiser for Cedar Ridge, was virtual this year, with new elements such as online painting and cooking classes, balloon donations delivered to front yards with "Proud Supporter" signs, and a "table" donation with a resulting tree planted in the donor's honor, in addition to the usual exciting raffles. The event culminated with a Zoom Party on October 10. Check out the highlights and fun on the camp website, as well as video recaps of the summer program and chapel project. The net income was **over \$19, 600!** If you missed a chance to contribute, **donations** are still being accepted on the website, cedarridgecamp.com. Bardstown Road Pres has faithfully supported Cedar Ridge through the years...thank you so much!!! The digging for the lower level of the **camp chapel** has been completed and foundation work has begun! If you would like to contribute to the around \$42,000 still needed to complete the \$750,000 project, please visit the camp website or mail a check to Cedar Ridge Camp, 4010 Old Routh Road, Louisville, KY 40299

HABITAT NEWS

A group of 5 BRP volunteers worked on a gorgeous Saturday in early November on the Presbyterian Habitat house. Bill Bowman, Mark Eldred, Gillian Hollis, Mary Mpanje, and Emmanuel Muyenza worked with the prospective homeowner, Moufak, on his new house. While Bill put up soffit on the exterior, Mark, Gillian, Mary, and Emmanuel worked on interior painting. The four of them even performed an a capella version of "This Little Light of Mine," which was one of the hymns the following day!

The Presbyterians are shooting for the end of the year to finish up work on the house. That means there is only a little more time to work this year, and so we're going to have only one more workday. It will be **Saturday, December 12**, from 8:30 until 3:00. Please join the BRP Team that Saturday as we touch up some last-minute items before Moufak will be able to move in!

HCM CURBSIDE FOOD DRIVE

What a super successful holiday curbside food drive Sunday, Nov. 22 and in the rain, too! We are so thankful and blessed to live in such a caring and generous community! Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped sort and fill the pantry shelves, and to the Bonnycastle Homestead Association for organizing their own neighborhood dropoff and bringing over a truck-load of food and supplies!

Thank you to all who donated!
We love our Highlands Community!





Sunday November 8 2020

ADULT EDUCATION

Those interested in joining in the conversation with other adults who will share in reading Howard Thurman’s “Jesus and the Disinherited” and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” can join a three month series of zoom gatherings the second Monday of the month, December 14, January 11, and February 8, from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. After this three-month offering, groups will break into small book study groups February through May of 2021. If you would like to receive the reading assignments for these three gatherings, please reach out to Pastor Mark, mark@brpres.org

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

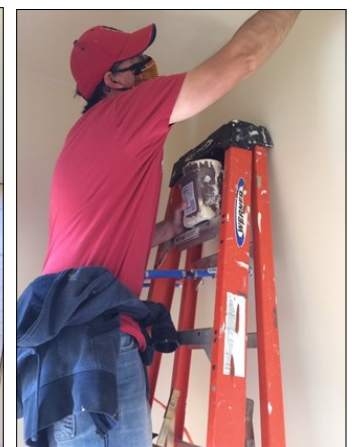
Read Through the Bible in a Year participants are invited to gather once per month to discuss their experience. We will join via zoom on second Wednesdays of the month, December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 7, and August 11, from 6:00-7:00 E.T. If you would like to jump in at the start of any month, this is a rolling bible study project. Reach out to Pastor Mark for a monthly schedule.



Standing in Solidarity—November 2 2020



HABITAT





ADVENT DINNERS—in our homes

You are invited to participate in the dinner programs on (December 6, 13 and 20 beginning at 6:00 p.m.) as we gather for a time of spiritual nurture in our homes.

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Do you know of someone for whom Christmas is a sad time? Maybe that person is a friend, relative or neighbor. Join us for a Longest Night Service on Monday **December 21 at 6 P.M.** In this service we invite you to listen, pray, sing and receive a special personal prayer. Please join us to find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.



CHRISTMAS EVE—Dec. 24

THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WILL BE at 4 PM Live on Facebook and will be available on BRPC Facebook videos after that for any time you wish. We will **not** have an in-person service at 11 PM. There is a possibility of an in-person service at 4 PM, but the session will make that decision closer to Christmas Eve.

VIRTUAL Christmas Day Celebration-IMPROMPTU CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Friday, December 25 at 10:30 a.m.

It is a grass-roots, spontaneous, participatory sharing of the nativity. Everyone can take part in reading, singing, acting out the story. It's a lot of fun and for many people, over many years, this is a wonderful part of the holy day celebration. Help us tell the story of Jesus' birth on Christmas morning **virtually from your homes.**



HANGING OF THE GREENS – EARLY DECEMBER. MORE DETAILS TO COME.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/6,13,20 Advent Dinners at 6 p.m. in our homes.
- 12/16 Deadline for Poinsettia/Heifer orders
- 12/20 Christmas Joy Offering
- 12/21 Longest Night Service at 6 P.M.
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 p.m. (virtual Livestream and can be viewed at anytime after throughout the evening).
- 12/25 Virtual Impromptu Christmas Pageant at 10:30 A.M. (in individual homes)



FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY ANIMALS FOR THE WORLD –2020

Yes, we have ordered 25 poinsettias for the sanctuary this year to continue the tradition of decorating the Sanctuary as part of our Christmas celebration!

And, in addition to flowers, you can contribute animals for the manger. Heifer sends livestock around the world as a gift of hope to people in need.

We will take orders for the above over the phone due to Covid (452-8305) or via email, (johanna@brpres.org). Please continue the tradition of dedicating your gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.

The deadline for Poinsettia/Heifer orders is **December 16.**

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Hanging of the Greens	2 Hanging of the Greens	3 Hanging of the Greens 7pm Personnel Committee Mtg	4	5 10-12 Farmer's Market Neighborhood event Dusk till 10pm Bardstown Road Aglow
6 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching <i>Advent Dinner</i>	7 10 a.m. Congregational Life Meeting	8 7pm Mission Committee Mtg.	9	10	11	12 10-12 Farmer's Market 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Habitat work day
13 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching Congregational Mtg <i>Advent Dinner</i>	14 7pm Worship Committee Mtg	15 Newsletter deadline 7 p.m. Session Meeting	16	17	18 Poinsettia delivery	19 10-12 Farmer's Market
20 Christmas Joy Offering 11:00 a.m. Worship; Rev. Eldred Preaching <i>Advent Dinner</i>	21 6:00 pm Longest Night Service	22	23	24 Church office closed Christmas Eve Communion 4pm BRP Candlelight Service	25 Church office closed Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. Virtual Pageant via Zoom	26 10-12 Farmer's Market
27 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	28	29 Pastor Mark will be on vacation Dec. 28-31	30	31		



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Mid-Kentucky Presbytery of PC (USA) had its second virtual Presbytery meeting on November 14. Here is an excerpt from a meeting summary by **The Reverend Jerry Van Marter, Stated Clerk**:

We Did What? by Jerry Van Marter, Stated Clerk

Once again – at its Fall meeting on November 14 on Zoom – the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky demonstrated that a good presbytery meeting doesn't require voting on a string of important (or not) issues. In two-and-a-half lively hours, the presbytery took only two non-procedural votes: to financially support (\$5,000) the ministry of Presbyterian mission co-workers and Mid-Kentucky Presbytery members Jieun and Martin Han, newly appointed to South Korea; and to endorse Fair Maps Kentucky – a grassroots effort to ensure that redistricting in Kentucky following the 2020 census is done fairly and equitably. That proposal was brought by the session of Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The tone for the meeting was set early, with an entertaining and challenging sermon by **the Rev. Dr. Ralph Watkins**, who in June of this year became the first African American male to be installed as a full professor in an endowed chair at Columbia Theological Seminary. In his recorded sermon entitled "You Can Get With This or You Can Get With That," Watkins integrated "traditional" preaching with video clips of his construction of a home gym to combat the physical and spiritual effects of COVID-enforced isolation and used. That effort, he insisted, is a metaphor for the choices people make every day during the pandemic to either resign themselves to that which can no longer be done or to find new ways of accomplishing old tasks. Watkins is a regular preacher and workshop leader for churches, denomination bodies and presbyteries across the United States, with more than 25 years pastoral ministry experience. He is considered a national leader in digital and online teaching and learning. Last Thursday, he led a Zoom workshop for the presbytery on digital worship. His forthcoming book on these topics is entitled "The Fully Digitally Integrated Ministry: Integrating the Old and the New."

Following worship, the **presbytery engaged exploration and dialogue around churches' efforts to overcome systemic racism**. Led by Moderator Angela Johnson and Ruling Elder Marcus Long (Westwood) of the Louisville chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, the presbytery's ongoing efforts to understand and overcome systemic racism seek to move from examining the factors that contribute to systemic racism to taking concrete actions in congregations to overcome them.

Other highlights of the meeting:

- Nine ministers were celebrated for their ordination anniversaries, reflecting a total of 290 years of ordination!
- Over \$1000 was received in an offering to benefit the Bail Project-Louisville and the Presbyterian Historical Society.
- New officers of MKP were installed, and John Odom was installed to his second five-year term as General Presbyter.

Alicia Bloos