



Celebrating 115+ Years of Ministry
1906-2021

Volume 55
Issue 12

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church
1722 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY 40205

December
2021

Dear Siblings in Christ,

For many years I sang professionally with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chorus. We had an annual tradition of singing six to eight shows of a concert called Welcome Yule. It was primarily a Christmas themed concert. It was light-hearted and family-oriented or focused. It sold out every year. There was always a visit by Santa! My favorite year was 2005 when we had a visit by the Chicago White Sox World Series Trophy that they paraded across the stage of Symphony Center (what used to be called Orchestra Hall). There was one song we sang many times called "We Need a Little Christmas". Maybe many of you know. "We need a little Christmas, right this very minute, candles in the window, carols at the spinet..." I don't miss working and singing so much that I could barely phonate January 1, but there are many things about these Christmas concerts that I miss. We had so much fun, me and about two hundred other singers. It brought joy to people in the seats. People gathered and went to lunch or dinner, all dressed up in ugly Christmas Sweaters. Some people wore antlers or blinking light necklaces. It was all about gathering in joy and celebration.

I don't know about you but I need a little Christmas, right this very minute, this year. I was recently in Bloomington, Indiana for a week of study leave, and playing on the radio in several coffee shops was Christmas Music. Is it too soon? I don't think that it is this year. I sense a 'need' in many people this year for some ways to lighten the load of all that we have just all been through together. The week before Thanksgiving week, I participated in a program called Credo (which in Latin means 'I believe'). Credo is a program funded by the Presbyterian Church (USA) Board of Pensions, the group that facilitates pastor benefits and terms, and also provides various support to church staffs as well. The Credo program is a support program for pastoral health in sustaining the work of the church over many years. I look forward to sharing more about this program with all of you. It was a timely blessing to be with my twenty-three other clergy colleagues, as we are all in our first five years of ordination. I could tell that we all needed something, right this very minute. We needed space to support one another, to lament, to laugh, to cry, to tell stories, to reunite again during this sustained challenging time for the church. We needed each other right now and moving forward. People often ask me if I miss singing. I truly don't always miss singing, but I always miss the people! I miss the effort of a large choir and orchestra that always produces a result far more powerful than any single person ever could.

My hope with our fellowship one-hour gatherings these next several weeks is just for a time to reconnect with one another. On December 1, bring a recipe to share with those at your table, and share the story behind it - what makes it special? On December 8, bring music that you love. What songs, hymns, or choral anthems define Advent and the Christmas Season for you? Maybe we will make a list and have a group sing from that list next year in 2022? December 15 bring stories and traditions of your families that have stood the test of time over generations. Maybe you even have some stories of this congregation and the many Christmases past of Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church? My hope is that maybe some of you will go back to your homes or out in to the community to share in dinner with the hopes that Advent 2022 we will be back to being able to gather for dinners in our church.

Blessings all,
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 19.**

Worship and Music: Arts and Drama Committee: The following 2022 Communion dates were approved by motion.

- January 2 – Second Sunday after Christmas
- February 6 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
- March 6 – First Sunday in Lent
- April 14 – Maundy Thursday
- April 17 – Easter
- May 1 – Third Sunday of Easter
- June 5 – Pentecost
- July 3 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
- August 7 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
- September 4 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
- October 2 – World Communion Sunday
- November 6 – All Saints Day
- December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent
- December 24 – Christmas Eve

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

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The Stewardship Committee (Bill Bowman, Clare Lewis, Molly Rapp, and Maddie Vanamburgh) would like to thank all those who turned in financial pledge cards on or before Stewardship Sunday, which this year was October 31. There is still an opportunity, however, to add your pledge to others, if you want to make a pledge in the next couple of weeks.

The Committee also wants to remind everyone that the Time and Talents survey will be sent out in a few weeks, and we urge everyone to find those activities where you may contribute some of your time to BRP in the coming year. These commitments will help church leadership and committee chairs connect volunteers with their planned activities.

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 2021. Anything received after that date will be credited as a 2022 donation. Your prayers, financial support, and amazing generosity are truly inspiring and greatly appreciated as we share in ministry through BRPC.



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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Highlights of the October 26 Session Meeting

- Rev. Eldred's Moderator's Report has kept the format of the previous pastor basing it on our four core ministry priorities.
- For the Clerk's Report Keith Clements said that the Per Capita Appropriation has been set by Mid-Kentucky Presbytery for our church at \$25.03 per person for a total of \$2,056.46 based on 82 members.
- By Letter of Transfer from Harvey Browne P.C., Nancy Williamson is our newest member increasing our active membership to 84.
- The investment policy on asset distribution for the church operating budget was changed to maintaining a \$550,000 floor of our restricted endowment funds and using 15% of that overage, based on a 3-year average, to supplement our annual operating budget.
- A new video/sound system is being installed in Fellowship Hall.
- Halloween gift bags will be prepared for the children, youth and college students. Addresses of students who live away will be obtained so the gifts can be mailed to them.
- Shirley Shaw will be starting a column called "Do You Know" for our newsletter sharing information about our committee activities.
- Mary Helen Harned, a board member of KY Refugee Ministries, spoke to the Mission Committee of ways to assist Afghan refugees. BRP Church will team with United Church of Christ to assist a family with gathering needed household items.
- Highland Community Ministries is requesting donations of throw blankets and gift cards (Kroger, Walmart, Value Market, etc.) for 12 Christmas baskets.
- The Administration Committee will be updating the church website and creating a timeline of events for publicizing our activities.
- The members of Session will be spotlighted in the newsletter to give transparency of who the church leadership is. This information will assist the Permanent Nominating Committee in making future selections to serve on Session.
- The Personnel Committee recommended that the pastor and staff receive a 3% increase in salary for the 2022 budget. The change for the Pastor's Terms of Call will be approved at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday December 5 after worship.
- Funds for an LPTS Student Intern was budgeted for the 2022 Fall Semester (Sept. through Dec.). Rev. Eldred will study the need and utilization for a student intern.
- A prayer request sheet will be placed at the back of the Sanctuary for writing a message for the pastor to acknowledge during Prayers of the People.
- The worship technology team includes Doug Rapp and Anne Campbell videotaping the Sunday service. More volunteers are needed.
- be displayed in the sanctuary during the Advent season.

(next column)

- The Worship Committee will budget for 4 people to attend the Worship and Music Conference at Montreat next summer.
- Beverly Gradisek is preparing a new pair of banners to be displayed in the sanctuary during the Advent season.

READ -THROUGH-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR 2021-2022

The group that is persisting forward daily with reading through the bible has already read ten chapters of the bible in the first three months of September, October, and November. They will continue to gather the second Thursday of every month to discuss how the reading is going, and to have some general dialogue about bible reading.

DID YOU KNOW?

CLC: After a visit with Ivona at Berea College, Marty says Ivona is very happy there with her classes, her roommate and the campus. Ivona will be home for about four weeks over the Christmas holidays.

SC: Do you like to decorate? Work in a garden? Help with youth? Teach? Cook? Organize? Please fill out the "Time and Talent" survey you will be receiving soon.

WC: The Advent Banners hanging in the front of the sanctuary were made by Beverly Gradisek.

B&G: When we can again have programs in Fellowship Hall, there will be new AV equipment in place, including a retractable screen.

Standing in
Solidarity
on
Mondays
during the
year 2021



O TASTE AND SEE - Three Wednesdays of Advent Gratitude and Fellowship Hour in Fellowship Hall

We hope that you will join your fellow BRPres community on three consecutive Wednesdays for some fun fellowship and conversation. December 1 will be Recipe Wednesday where we gather to share family recipes and stories of food traditions of the holidays. December 8 we will gather to discuss and share some of our favorite songs and hymns of the Advent and Christmas Season. December 15 we gather to share some of our family holiday traditions and stories of past Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church Christmas seasons. We will not share in a meal this year, but we hope many folks will pair up and as you are comfortable go out in to the community or to one another's homes and share in a meal on these Wednesday evenings after fellowship.

ADVENT IN YOUR HOMES

The Christian Education Committee will be assembling Advent kits for the homes of our Youth and Children. We hope that you; and your children will share in the resources as a family, and enjoy all the wonderful coloring pages of Illustrated Ministry. If you have never heard of Illustrated Ministry, check them out on-line.



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 7 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—Friday Dec. 24

The Christmas Eve Service will be 4:00 PM in-person and livestreamed on Facebook; the 11:00 PM service will be in-person only.

IMPROMPTU CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Saturday, December 25 at 10:00 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.



GREENING OF THE CHURCH

- Thursday, December 2nd, 5-7PM

Once again, we will gather to do some of the work of making our church festive and ready for Christmas Eve and Christmas weekend. Join in with your BRPres community as we deck out the sanctuary, various parts of the building, and the outdoors



FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY ANIMALS FOR THE WORLD –2021

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 12.**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND WORSHIP

12/1, 8, 15. Three Wednesday Advent Gratitude and Fellowship Hours

12/2 Greening of the Church from 5-7 P.M.

12/10 Deadline for Poinsettia/Heifer orders

12/12 Youth leading Worship at 11:00 A.M.

12/19 Cantata Sunday at 11:00 A.M.
Christmas Joy Offering

12/21 Longest Night Service at 7 P.M.

12/24 Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 P.M. (In-person and livestreamed; 11:00 P.M. In-person only)

12/25 Impromptu Christmas Pageant at 10:00 A.M.

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Christmas Giving -This month we will join the other HCM congregations to help make the Christmas holidays brighter for those in need in our area. Last year's Christmas Drive was a great success, as HCM was able to help over 560 individuals and over 300 families with Christmas, and client feedback was very positive. BRP has been asked to provide \$25 Kroger, Walmart, Target, or Valumarket gift cards and throw blankets for 12 people in need (a total from BRP of 24 gift cards and 12 throws). Items may be **dropped off at the HCM Campus, 1228 E. Breckinridge St., in a Drive-By Christmas Drive** at the beginning of December. For delivery help or questions, contact Alicia Bloos. Visit hcmlouisville.org to make a monetary donation directly or send a check payable to BRPres with "HCM Christmas Drive" in the memo line.

Elf-Day Drop-Off

Dec. 1 (Wed) 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
Dec. 2 (Thur.) 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
Dec. 3 (Fri.) 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Thank you so much for helping Christmas happen this year! HCM appreciates your generosity.

HCM Childcare Centers are Hiring: Now Hiring: Child-care Teachers. Do you like working with children? Do you want work-free evenings and weekends? Join a great team at this 50 year Louisville Institution! Full-time and part-time positions available. Competitive pay starting at \$13/hour. Benefits available for 30+ hours per week. No evenings or weekends required. All training paid. If you are at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma, and wish to learn more about a rewarding part-time job or full-time career, then please contact Director, Debbie Spillane at 502/458-3045 or dspillane@hcmlouisville.org.

Empty Bowls Update: The 25th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser, postponed from September 2021 due to the rise in Covid cases, has been tentatively **rescheduled for May 15, 2022**. Thank you to everyone who has helped support the mission of HCM this year, through donations to the *Annual Summer Food and Back-to-School Supplies Drive*, the September 17 *Give For Good* event, and Christmas Giving. Obviously, however, **the needs of our neighbors continue**, and HCM will be hindered in aiding these folks without our financial assistance. At any time, you may visit hcmlouisville.org to make a **donation** or send a check to BRPres with "HCM donation" in the memo line.

CEDAR RIDGE CAMP

Update on Autumn Under the Cedars: The AUC committee is now reporting that CRC's annual fundraiser, held October 9 in the big tent overlooking the lake, brought in over \$18,000! Thanks again go to Jennie Gueda, Molly and Doug Rapp, Bill and Linda Bowman, Linda White, and Margot Tomsen for contributions to the BRP wine basket and the silent auction.

If you could not attend but wish to help support the ministry of Cedar Ridge Camp, please go online to cedarridgecamp.com where you may donate year-round.

Chapel Construction Progress: The steel has finally arrived, and steel work has just begun, to be followed shortly by the concrete deck forming the base of the chapel area and the roof of the lower level. Not only will this allow work on the chapel to progress, but it will finish enclosing the lower-level storage and storm shelter area, making that area immediately usable.

Memorial Brick campaign: As part of the chapel project, you now may memorialize your name or those of loved ones in an entrance patio paved with commemorative bricks. You may purchase either a 4"x 8" standard brick or an 8"x 8" deluxe brick with an option to include graphics. Order bricks online at cedarridgecamp.com or pick up an order form in the church sanctuary and mail it back to camp. Questions? Contact Alicia Bloos.

To see what has been happening at camp, visit the CRC Facebook page [facebook.com/Cedar-Ridge-Camp-115963338425269/](https://www.facebook.com/Cedar-Ridge-Camp-115963338425269/) or Instagram [instagram.com/cedarridgecamp.louisvilleky/](https://www.instagram.com/cedarridgecamp.louisvilleky/). To read more about the chapel project, see [presbyterianmission.org/story/ground-is-broken-for-new-chapel-at-cedar-ridge-camp/](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/ground-is-broken-for-new-chapel-at-cedar-ridge-camp/).

PROJECT WARM

The Project Warm Blitz was held in early November, and it had a different look this year. Instead of going inside clients' houses to work on tightening up homes by installing plastic over windows, this year the materials for doing the work were delivered to clients' homes over one weekend. A total of over 300 homes got this service!

Keith Clements and Bill Bowman formed one team to deliver materials, and Chris Clements and his children formed another. For the first team, Keith supplied a map and excellent directions to get from one house to another, and Bill drove the car and handed over the materials. Chris drove the other car and his kids explained the materials handed out. Twelve families in all should be a lot warmer in their houses this winter!

POLLINATOR GARDEN

The garden is winding down for the winter months, but it's been a great summer and fall! Our flowers, especially asters, have been blooming like crazy, and all the pollinators have enjoyed them immensely.

The garden was a success because of all the volunteers who planted, mulched, weeded, and watered it over the summer. Many thanks to Alicia Bloos, Bill Bowman, Keith Clements, Mark Eldred, Jennie Gueda, Paul Johnson, Mary Mpanje, Emmanuel Muyenza, Bill Williamson, and Nancy Williamson.

Sometime next spring we'll get to work on the rest of the area bordering the parking lot, so let any of the above folks know if you can help out then.

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The BRP team of four volunteers (Bill Bowman, Keith Clements, Bob Kotheimer, and Clare Lewis) got right to work on a Saturday morning in mid-November to paint all the interior rooms in the new Habitat house being build by Presbyterians for and with David Allen. If all goes well between now and then, the new house will be dedicated in December.

There may be one final workday between now and the dedication, so let Bill know if you'd like to volunteer that day. And everyone, both volunteers and others, are invited to attend the dedication once the schedule has been set.



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 Calvin Chapel Construction



December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Recipe Wednesday, - 5:30-6:30 PM - sharing family reci- pes	2 Hanging of the Greens 7pm Personnel Committee Mtg	3	4 10-12 Farmer's Market Bardstown Road Aglow
5 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	6 10 a.m. Congregational Life Meeting 5-6 pm Standing in Solidarity	7 7pm Mission Committee Mtg.	8 Song and Hymn Wednesday, 5:30- 6:30 PM - sharing favorite songs and hymns	9	10	11 10-12 Farmer's Market
12 11:00 a.m. Youth leading Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	13 7pm Worship Committee Mtg	14 Newsletter deadline 7 p.m. Session Meeting	15 Family Tradition Wednesday, 5:30- 6:30PM - sharing seasonal traditions	16	17 Poinsettia delivery	18 10-12 Farmer's Market
19 Christmas Joy Offering Cantata Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship; Rev. Eldred Preaching	20 5-6 pm Standing in Solidarity 7:00 pm Longest Night Service	21	22	23	24 Church office closed Christmas Eve Communion 4pm (in-person & livestreamed & 11pm (in-person) Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant
26 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	27	28	29	30	31	
Pastor Mark will be out December 29 and 30						



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church
1722 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY 40205

November 2021 Presbytery Meeting Summary

More than 100 Mid-Kentucky Presbyterians gathered Saturday (November 20) in person at Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church and on Zoom for the fall meeting of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. The previously scheduled tri-presbytery gathering with the presbyteries of Transylvania and Western Kentucky was postponed until February 25-26 in Bowling Green.

Worship was held in the Taize style originated in France, consisting of periods of silence, simple repetitive songs and scripture readings. The worship offering was dedicated to Shawnee Presbyterian Church to advance its social service ministry partnership with the Hope Buss. The offering totaled \$1,235.00.

As part of the consent agenda, the presbytery approved and sent to the 225th General Assembly next June an overture that, if it passes, will restore the office of Parish Associate to the Book of Order. The presbytery also heard the first reading of an amendment to its standing rules that, if it passes, will require 48 hours notice for the introduction of items of new business to any presbytery meeting.

The presbytery paused for a moment of remembrance of the Rev. Peggy French, who died recently. Peggy served for a number of years as pastor of Okolona Presbyterian Church. The presbytery also dissolved the South Fork Presbyterian Church in Bradfordsville. The small congregation is now free to affiliate with whichever denomination it chooses, or it may decide to become an independent congregation. It also retains the right to purchase its building from the presbytery.

Several distinguished leaders concluded particular service to the presbytery, as many new leaders prepare to take office on January 1, 2022. Those who were honored included Ruling Elder Anne Hughes (Harvey Browne), who concluded her service as moderator of the presbytery (she will be succeeded by the Rev. Jim Murphy of Campbellsville); the Rev. Joel Weible (Pewee Valley), who completed three years as chair of the Commission on Ministry (he will be succeeded by Bill McConnell (Highland)); the Rev. Don Garton (Highland), who concluded his service as chair of the presbytery's Finance Committee; and the Rev. Angela Johnson (Grace-Hope), who completed her year of service as chair of the Coordinating Commission.

Thanks to the technical expertise of Andrew Hartmans, Ross Hartmans, John Odom, Michael Purinton and Mary Kutter, and trust Mid-Kentucky Presbyterians continue to demonstrate in their leaders, committees and commissions, the meeting concluded after just one-and-a-half hours, 45 minutes ahead of the docket.

And now we (hopefully), rest, relax and enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. A most blessed Thanksgiving to you all.

The presbytery meets next on February 26, 2022, during the tri-presbytery gathering in Bowling Green. The gathering will feature keynote speaker the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, former General Assembly moderator who will share his thoughts and ideas on the post-pandemic church, and the Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, stated clerk of the General Assembly, who will be the gathering's preacher.