



Celebrating 115+ Years of Ministry

1906-2021

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

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Greetings Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church,

I shared this with session and will share with all of you that I will be writing the final six 2021 devotions (Dec 26-31, 2021), and the closing short essay, for *These Days; Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*. Some of you read these devotions daily, a devotional published quarterly by the Presbyterian Publishing Company, our denomination's publisher based here in Louisville. It is an honor and privilege to write for *These Days*, and I look forward to seeing what I finish up these next few days.

I share this with you as what I am being asked to do here is pertinent to the life of the church. This small writing project asks something of me that many pastors and leaders of the church face - thinking about one season of the life of the church while trying to be present to the church season that we are currently in. This writing project asks me to think about the completion of the next 2021 Advent Season, post-Christmas, potentially and hopefully post-covid, and how several slices of scripture might be resonating in our world at that time. I find that after this past year this feels to me no small task. Volumes have been written about what we are all going through emotionally, spiritually, physically, psychologically, mentally, and literally. To break all that down into a small hundred and fifty words is my task at hand. There is so much to say. There are so many emotions being felt.

I have truly enjoyed walking with you through the five phrases of the Mission Statement of Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church the five Sundays of Lent as we head in to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. I am charged to think about the turn from 2021 to 2022, but I would ask all of us to stay in the here and now as much as we are able. I would ask that we don't get ahead of ourselves in asking 'what is the moral of the covid story?' I would ask that we take what the world is offering one day at a time. I would ask us as a church to continue to ask, and to seek, and to knock where we are called to be each day. Although I see great hope in many of the positive paths that are moving us forward, such as the fact that we are pushing close to 50 vaccinated folks in our family of around 100 members and participants, let's seek each day to be present to where God is asking us to be present. It has been a gift for me to be your pastor during times unimaginable for most of us. May we remain in the moment of continuing to support one another as we exit Lent into the seasons of Easter Spring and Summer.

God's blessings this Easter Season,

Pastor Mark

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING EASTER OFFERING

Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with those in need. Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

The offering will be received on Easter Sunday. As you know, this offering will help support Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Self-Development of People (SDOP) program which provides grants for projects that are owned and controlled by the people who will benefit directly from them. Each project must address and correct long-term conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression. It will also help support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The Hunger Program will receive 36 percent of the gifts, while the SDOP and Disaster Assistance will each receive 32 percent. Please give generously.

If you are able and would like to contribute to OGHS during these unusual times, please mail your offering to BRP or place in the collection plate.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The final gathering for our group reading James Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* will be gathering Monday April 12 virtually, 7:00-8:00 P.M. Thank you to all who have participated in this deep and challenging discussion. We are considering the next group study, and would like to read a work by a feminist, womanist, or a mujerista theologian. If you have any suggestions, please reach out to pastor Mark.

The Word of God, our Bible, is the foundation of our faith and our church. Read-Through-the-Bible-in-a-Year continues to move forward through God's Word for us. The small group is well over half way through this year's read. We gather once a month, virtually, to share how the experience has been/is/and will be going for each of us. If you are interested in reading the bible, we look forward to you joining us next year, September 1, 2021. Pastor Mark will offer this every year!

It is not too late to donate items for our children and youth Easter baskets! We are assembling baskets for seventeen young people ranging in age from 5-17. Examples of items already donated are stuffed animals, candy, snacks, and candy. Did I mention candy? Who doesn't love candy at Easter time? Please call ahead to the church if you are considering dropping off donations for our young people. Thank you to all who have already participated!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Camille Purnell-Gatewood	8
Rebecca Brees	9
Beth Bowman	12
Cullen Bilyeu	13
Dana Houglund	14
Liana Maria Youbi	14
Emma Overstreet	16
Martha Claire Coalter	18
Sean FitzGerald	19
Jeanette Irambona	20
Sarah Horton	21
Gabriel Vanamburgh	22
Maureen Lear	24
Mark Brockman Jr.	27
Samuel Ellis	27
Joann Broadbooks	28

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church Staff

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

Editor, Johanna Fears

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH 21 SESSION MTG

- The Session Retreat reviewed Chapter 3 about transforming partnership from the book 'Neighborhood Church'. Various ways to connect with others through the use of our building and parking lot were discussed.
- Rev. Eldred proposed the idea of partnering with Westwood Presbyterian Church for his Moderator's Report. The idea came from the sermon by Angela Johnson, the minister at Grace Hope Presbyterian Church, during the worship at the last Presbytery meeting. She challenged churches to "each one, reach one". Rev. Eldred has contacted Westwood and they are considering what form this relationship could be.
- The passing of Sarah Collins on February 19, 2021 was acknowledged and her relationship with our church. Rev. Eldred has contacted her cousin, Bert Collins, about a future memorial service.
- A memorial non-restricted bequest from the Shoemaker Family has been designated to fund the Memorial Chapel at Cedar Ridge Camp. Grad Shoemaker had worked on building and repairing the cabins at Cedar Ridge.
- Repairs to the boiler heating system will be expensive and will be done when the system can be shut down. The sanctuary will be cool, so members will need to dress warm for in-person services.
- The following dates for 'Standing for Solidarity' were approved for March 22, March 29, April 12, April 26, May 10 and May 24. All are welcome to meet in front of the church from 5:00 to 6:00 P.M.
- Jennie Guelda is getting the nursery ready for Palm Sunday and Easter in-person services. The All Church Retreat is tentatively scheduled for September 18, 2021 at Cedar Ridge Camp.
- The Personnel Committee is reviewing the Policies and Procedures for the church. Lin Block-Coalter prepared the current document eleven years ago and it will be revised to be applicable to the church's needs.
- Gabe Vanamburgh and Ivona Nijimbere are the two graduating high school seniors in the confirmation class and their confirmation is scheduled for Pentecost Sunday May 23. Easter baskets will be prepared for the youths.
- Alicia Bloos attended a meeting by Zoom about pollinator gardens so we can maintain our present garden by the parking lot. Some of the 'Grab and Go' pantries at nearby churches have been abused, but an installation at our church is still under consideration.
- The Stewardship Committee needs a chairperson to lead the fundraising for the 2022 budget. "Could this be you"? Stewardship Sunday will be on All Saints Day.
- The Video Tech Team will be supported by the Communications Committee. The team members being trained by Doug Rapp are: Anne Campbell, Paul Johnson, Sarah Hageman, Gillian Hollis Kraus-Neale, Neil and Becky Johnson.

(continued in next column)

- Palm Sunday will include the traditional walk down Bardstown Road distributing palm leaves before the service. Rev. Eldred will provide instructions.
- There will be no communion served on Easter in the Sanctuary for it would be a logistical nightmare. Attendees will be asked to have a temperature check, to spread apart, wear masks, and the hymns will be hummed instead of sung for the in-person services.

HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES

Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion on April 1 at 6 p.m.



VIRTUAL ONLY

Remembering the "Last Supper" Jesus shared with his disciples during Holy Week.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE ON April 2 at 7 p.m.



VIRTUAL ONLY

Experience a simple presentation of Lessons and Hymns telling the story of Christ's passion. We will experience the story of Jesus' last hours as the drama of his betrayal, trial and death unfold. It puts us into the story – as we await Easter morning and new life.

CELEBRATION of the RESURRECTION: Service of Worship on April 4

In-person and virtual service at 11:00 a.m.



A Celebration of the Resurrection. We will hear the story of the resurrection of Jesus and how his friends moved from fear to joy, then to a deeper understanding of who Jesus was and how he was calling them –and us– to live.

This is also the Sunday for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to be received.

TIME STOOD STILL

It has been ONE YEAR since children were happily playing with Jennie in the nursery. See the calendar page for a shocking visual of when time stood still. Well, it's refreshed and waiting for happy faces. See you soon!



CEDAR RIDGE CHAPEL CONSTRUCTION



GIRL SCOUT COOKIES IN THE PARKING LOT



From the MISSION COMMITTEE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

THANK YOU to all who contributed food pantry items to the recent Curbside Mardi Gras Food Drive! It was a **great success in helping replenish dwindling food reserves, but need continues** to be great in our community. Always-needed items include meaty soups and stews, crackers, cheese and crackers, meaty pasta sauce with pasta, canned meat and tuna, mac and cheese, shelf-stable milk, canned green beans, toilet paper, bar soap, shampoo. Also desperately needed: laundry pods and dish detergent. HCM can give out 4 or 5 laundry pods at a time (instead of a whole package), and the small dish detergent bottles are preferred, as HCM can get more donated and spread the love farther than with fewer big or xlarge bottles.

The food pantry and emergency assistance programs at HCM are more critical than ever for many of our neighbors. You can help with the work of HCM at any time by visiting the website, hcmloouisville.org, and donating directly, or sending a check to BRPres with "HCM donation" in the memo line.

BOOKS FOR READERS

Finished with that latest best-seller? Remember, books of any kind—children's or adult, fiction or nonfiction—are always needed and gratefully accepted in our **Little Free Library** box in our Bardstown Road courtyard. Please drop off in the box any great reads ready for a new home.

TARC BUS PASSES, KROGER CARDS and BRPC FOOD PANTRY

We help many who come to the church door in need. Please consider:

--Making a financial contribution to help purchase **TARC Partner Passes**, discounted passes for elderly, disabled, and those on assistance. As only a small amount is budgeted for this expense, and need has multiplied, please consider mailing a check to church with "TARC passes" on the memo line.

-**Tuna and chicken lunchables** are the best choices for this pantry. Anything hard or crunchy is hard on their teeth; and **bottled water** is also good, especially as the weather gets warmer.

--**Kroger card** donations are very helpful. Any amount is appreciated.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

CEDAR RIDGE CAMP

Work on the new **CRC chapel** is progressing nicely. Concrete has been poured for the lower level! To see updates about the chapel and more, visit the CRC Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Cedar-Ridge-Camp-115963338425269/> or Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/cedarridgecamp.louisvilleky/>. To read about the groundbreaking last July, see <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/ground-is-broken-for-new-chapel-at-cedar-ridge-camp/>.

Summer Camps won't be far behind the Spring Break Camp! Registration is now open. It is easy to make camp a possibility for your favorite kiddos--gift cards are now available! If loved ones are having trouble coming up with ideas for birthday or Easter gifts, they can gift the camp experience. To register now and reserve your camper's spots, to give the gift of camp, or to send a gift card, please check out the website www.cedarridgecamp.com.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Reverend Linda Reichenbecher, a member of the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery Mission Committee, is organizing the 2021 Disaster Relief Hygiene Kit Project. BRPres is helping to gather band-aids for these kits. Because of Covid, each church will pack its donated supplies in boxes of like items (**so band-aids ONLY for BRPres**) and deliver to a "Load the Truck" day on May 14. Assembly of individual kits will be done at the Ferncliff Disaster Relief Center in Arkansas. BRPres youth will be help box our items. Please purchase and drop off at church your **donations of 1 -inch band-aids, any brand, by May 1**. If you need assistance delivering those to church, contact Alicia Bloos, 502-496-0345 or aliciabloos@gmail.com. If enough people request it, we will arrange a drive-by drop-off day.

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

The BRP Mission Committee has budgeted support for PC(USA) missionaries. We are providing \$500 in 2021 to the work of Jeremy and Luta Garbat-Welch, serving in Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. We also ask for your prayers and support for these faithful followers of Christ. To follow Jeremy and Luta's journey of ministry, read their letters on the PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission page: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/jeremy-and-luta-garbat-welch/>

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

Hurrah! Once again, BRPres has been recertified as an Earth Care Congregation committed to promoting sustainability and care for God's earth!

KENTUCKY INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT

"Making the connection between Spirituality and Sustainability" summarizes KIPL's purpose. From their website: "Kentucky IPL is a community of congregations, faith-based organizations, and individuals of faith responding to climate change as an ethical and moral issue, through advocacy, education, energy conservation, energy efficiency, stewardship, and the use and promotion of clean, renewable energy." They offer many great educational opportunities, through speakers, workshops, and more. Their recent online workshop on butterfly gardens was great! (for a link, email Alicia at aliciabloos@gmail.com) To learn more, visit <https://www.kentuckyipl.org/>.

MISSION (continued)

PRESBYTERIAN CALL TO ACTION

BRPres members have received an email about the Presbyterian Call to Action, asking us to urge our senators to “support legislation that includes a carbon fee and dividend like that found in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. This approach will quickly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate an economically just, compassionate transition away from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy.” We encourage you to act on this request! People can add their names to the letter to our congresspersons by [signing the letter here](#).

LA CASITA CENTER: La Casita is a grassroots non-profit located in Louisville, Ky accompanying families in the Latinx community, with a mission to empower these families, providing a foundation for systemic change with long-term effects. Their latest [Annual Report](#) highlights the milagros--miracles--that were accomplished in 2020. In 2020, La Casita provided: 46,024 Total services; 2,527 Food deliveries; 2,255 Families served! To read more of 2020 achievements, check out their [website](#) and annual report at <http://www.lacasitacenter.org/2020-annual-report.html>

Love tamales? Currently La Casita is running their fundraiser **Tamales-On-the-Go** on April 10, with pre-ordering required. See the website. La Casita supports the community through a food pantry and bodega. Support these efforts by donating during drop-off times, every Thursday 5-7 P.M. For a complete list of accepted donations, go to the website and click “Apoyo/Support Us!” or “like us” on Facebook for weekly “priority items” posts.

CHRISTMAS CARD FROM AUSTRALIA

Rachell Marie Matheny and her husband, Nicholas, sent BRP a Christmas card from Australia:

“Thank you so much for all your lovely letters and well wishes. I hope everyone in BRP is staying safe and loved this holiday season”.
Love Rachel Marie and Nicholas

THANK YOU TO BRP

Emmanuel and myself would like to thank Pastor Mark Eldred and members of the Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church for the prayer support and reaching out to comfort us during the time that we lost our Mother, Kate Mpanje in Malawi. She died at 93 years old and was laid to rest on February 10, 2021 at Dedza in Malawi, South East Africa.

God bless each one of you.
 Thanks,
Mary Mpanje - Muyenza



April 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 7 P.M. Personnel Committee Mtg	2	3 10 a.m.-Noon Farmers' Market
4 Easter 11 a.m. In-person Worship Rev. Eldred preaching OGHS	5	6	7	8	9	10 10 a.m.-Noon Farmers' Market
11 11 a.m. In-person Worship Rev. Eldred preaching 1:30—2:30 pm Confirmation class	12 10 a.m. Congregational Care Mtg Adult ED 7-8 pm via Zoom	13 7pm Mission Committee	14	15	16	17 10 a.m.- Noon Farmers' Market
18 11 a.m. In-person Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	19 7pm Worship Team Meeting	20 7 p.m. Session Meeting	21	22	23	24 10 a.m.- Noon Farmers' Market
25 11 a.m. In-person Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	26	27	28	29	30	10 a.m.- Noon Farmers' Market



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We are thankful ...

- For those who received the Covid vaccine
- For Pastor Mark, Gillian, Jeanie and guests who continue to participate in the live-streaming of the BRP Sunday service
- To Doug Rapp and the Tech Team for bringing the live-streamed service on Sunday to the congregation via the new software and camera
- For our members who are continuing to check on others and provide support and supplies when needed
- For the memory of those members who have passed on recently but continue to live in our hearts
- For the beginning of in-person church on Palm Sunday