



Celebrating 117+ Years of Ministry  
1906-2023

Bardstovwn Road Presbyterian Church  
1722 Bardstovwn Road  
Louisville, KY 40205

**Volume 56**  
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**April**  
**2023**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Like God and faith, there is something slightly miraculous about this amaryllis below. It was gifted to me by one of you in December of 2019 - my first Christmas here - two months after I had started. It was one of those boxed plant starter kits that comes with the pot, the bulb, the soil, and some simple instructions. Being new, that first six months were busy ones, and I never took the time to plant the bulb. Sometime around my first summer here I believe I planted the bulb - summer of 2020. I had saved a poinsettia from that first Christmas Eve, and during the first few months of this new word and situation we all had learned, Covid-19, I thought my office could use a little something special.

To this day, I do not know who gave me this gift. It was just in the church administration office beside my door sometime around Christmas with some other gifts that some of you fine folks had given me. That first spring of 2021 the bulb did not flower. I had all these very nice green leaves, but no flower. Those of you who have tried to keep orchids might know what I am referring to with the nice green leaves but no flowers. Orchids can be a challenging flower between blooms.

The following spring I noticed something happening to the beautiful bright green leaves. They were fading one by one and dying off. I read up on the amaryllis, and was advised to cut the leaves off at a certain point. Out from the center of the pot grew this enormous base of a stem. I watched it grow and grow and grow, checking google to see what was to happen next. March of 2022, the amaryllis burst with life and the four massive red flowers bloomed two at a time in about a 48-hour period. In our second year of Covid-19, the amaryllis gave me some well needed inspiration and life.

Fast forward to 2023 - I watched the leaves die one by one again, and right at exactly one year the amaryllis has bloomed again. As we head toward Holy Week and Easter, I hope that you, too, are noticing the hope that God's creation, Mother Earth, gives us each and every year in the newness and vibrancy of spring. I still do not know who gave me this gift, yet I have an educated guess. It continues to teach me much about life, God, and the cycle of nature that brings life. Whoever gave it to me, I am thankful to you for the many lessons that I continue to learn as your Pastor.

To God be all Glory, Honor, and Praise - Pastor Mark



**A Weekend of Celebrations for  
Becky Shafer's 80th birthday**



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Karen Jones	3
Camille Purnell-Gatewood	8
Beck Brees	9
Beth Bowman	12
Cullen Bilyeu	13
Emma Overstreet	16
Sean FitzGerald	19
Jeanette Irambona	20
Yoselin Vega Vanamburgh	21
Gabriel Vanamburgh	22
Maureen Lear	24
Samuel Ellis	27

**.CHURCH POTLUCK March 26**



Emmanuel and Mary with Rev. Cheryl Barnes, our PCUSA World Mission Partner



**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	Administrator
Marty Hageman	Treasurer
Corey Bullitt	Sexton

Editor, Johanna Fears

1722 Bardstown Road Louisville, KY 40205  
 Pastor phone: 502-751-9660  
 Office Phone: 502-451-8305  
 Email: mark@brpres.org

## FROM PASTOR MARK

### Garden Seed and Seedling Exchange -

**Saturday, April 15 - 9-Noon in our Club Rm** I have noticed that gardeners tend to be a lot like folks who knit. Knitters often have more yarn than they will use in ten lifetimes. Avid readers of books also live this life, although e-books has slowed down the building of a library in homes. On April 15, our church through its new Garden Club will host a first annual Garden seed and seedling exchange! How does this work? We ask all participants to bring seeds they might not be using this year, seeds that have been 'dead headed' from last year's flowers and vegetables and herbs. Also those who might start seedlings in their homes and who have an overabundance of any kind of garden plant, we welcome you to bring those as well. Each participant will have their own little table in the Club Room to display their seeds/seedlings. We suggest bringing pictures of the finished flower/vegetable plants for some great conversation! We will gather at 8:30AM to do a quick set up and brief. For any questions email me at mark@brpres.org

### Earth Care Weekend Property Clean-up Day!

#### Saturday, April 22 - 1-5PM

Do you like doing outdoorsy things in the lawn and garden? The Mission Committee invites you Saturday April 22 for a property clean-up day. We will break up in to teams and take on many individual tasks of beautifying our property and the pollinator garden. What to bring? There can never be enough lawn bags! We could use a saw or small chain saw to cut up some kindle and wood currently laying around the property. Garden cutters, gloves, rakes, shovels, hoe, and whatever items you might use at home. Please label them and keep track of the things you bring. Many hands make for light work. We share the church parking lot with the Girls Scouts that afternoon so there is the added bonus of a post garden work reward of cookies!!!! There will be another planting day after Derby, stay tuned.

### A Thank You from the Pastor

Dear Church, I want to thank so many of you who have stepped in in a variety of ways during this more busy Lenten Season than we have had in the past three years. Thank you for clean-up, set up, dish doing, cooking, cleaning, supporting one another, liturgizing, singing, and for all that so many of you have done to make our Lenten Series and the path to Easter happen. Thank you most for showing up for our wonderful guests in the Lenten Series. I hope that the conversations about "Deepening our Spirituality" have given you some food for thought this Lent.

### Maundy Thursday Service - 5:30PM April 6

Please join in worship on April 6 at 5:30PM, Maundy Thursday in Fellowship Hall for a dinner gathering around table. We will share together in the sacrament of communion, a meal, prayer, participatory scripture, singing, and a guided conversation during dessert. Several members of the community will be supplying Soups and Entrees for our simple meal. (next column)

If you are able, please bring rolls, bread, cheese and crackers, salads, sides that compliment soup, simple beverages, and desserts. We will share in a guided conversation over dessert. Thank you to all in advance for assisting with all of the meal gatherings that we have had this busy Lenten Season!

### Last Call for Star Words

This is a last call for receiving a Star Word. This past Epiphany Sunday in January, I had on hand about forty Star Words for folks to take home with them. Star Words are an Orthodox tradition of receiving a word that assists one in focusing their faith all year long. It is an opportunity to return to the word time and time again to 'check in' on your faith. I will be referring to them from time to time between now and August. Please reach out if you didn't receive a Star Word for 2023 and would like one.

### HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES

**April 2: Palm Sunday** Palm Parade at 10:30 A.M. In-person and virtual worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m.

**April 6: Maundy Thursday** at 5:30 P.M. in Fellowship Hall.

**April 7: Good Friday service** will be in the sanctuary (in-person only) at 5:00 P.M.

**April 9: Celebration of the Resurrection:** Service of Worship In-person and virtual at 11:00 a.m.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

—Collected on April 2, Palm Sunday

### EASTER BREAKFAST IN THE PARK—

**SATURDAY, April 8, at STEGNER PAVILION At 9:00 A.M.**

It is time once more for our annual Easter Breakfast. This year we be at the Stegner Pavilion—right down the hill from Hogan's. *(It is the smaller pavilion near Hogan's Fountain on April 8. Since there are no grills available, there will be no cooked meat. Casseroles and quiches are encouraged to be served.)*

### QUARTERLY WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON—April 18

The quarterly women's birthday dutch-treat luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 18, at noon, at the Corner Cafe, 9307 New LaGrange Road. This will celebrate those ladies with birthdays in March, April or May. Please let Shirley Shaw know if you will attend by Thursday, April 13, so the reservation can be confirmed. Shirley 690-9520 or text only at 712-2920.

### Girl Scout Cookies RETURN!

The Highlands area chapters of the Girl Scouts will return to our parking lot for the third year. Cookies will be sold from 1:00-8:00PM on six consecutive Saturdays **March 24, April 1, April 8, April 15, April 22, and April 29.**

## MISSION

### HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Spring Clean Drive: HCM is seeking donations of the following personal hygiene items, as food pantry stock is very low! Also, any non-perishable food items are always welcome. Drop off to the food pantry on Wed-Thu-Fri, April 5-6-7, between 10 A.M. and 1 P.M., at 1228 E. Breckinridge St. (Or leave at church by April 4 and Mission Committee will deliver it.)

Bar Soap  
Shampoo  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Deodorant  
Toilet Paper  
Laundry Pods  
Hand Sanitizer  
Small bottles of Dishwashing Detergent

The Taste of the Highlands Mardi Gras fundraiser was a great success, netting a profit of over \$7,000—the best ever! Around 188 people enjoyed foods from Highlands restaurants, local beer, wine, bourbon, and soft drinks, and music by the Billy Goat Strut Review. Thank you to all who attended!

Summer Sampler Returns: Save the Date! Tours of our Member Congregation Buildings return this July! Watch for details on dates and locations coming soon!

Check out all that HCM offers, including childcare; senior activities; art, yoga, and tai chi classes; rental event spaces; and all Highlands Youth Recreation sports, at [hcmloouisville.org](http://hcmloouisville.org).

### CEDAR RIDGE CAMP

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Children up to age 12 are invited to come to Cedar Ridge on Saturday, April 8, for games, prizes, and pictures with the Easter Bunny, 3:00-3:30 P.M., and an Easter Egg Hunt 3:30-4:00.

**Summer Camps:** Now is the time to register your children and grandchildren, ages 7-16, for summer day and overnight camps. Find dates and details, and register, at [cedarridgecamp.com](http://cedarridgecamp.com). Scholarships and discounts for early registration are available.

**Facilitators are always needed** to lead activities for school, church, and other groups. Activities include Archery, Canoeing, Fishing, Hiking, Team Building, Native American Lore, Settlers' Toys, Orienteering, Trekking Through the Trees, Bug Safari, Crime Scene Investigation, Low Ropes and High Ropes courses, and Ziplining. Training is provided, and there is compensation. Interested? Contact Alaina Brummert, Program Director, at [alaina@cedarridgecamp.com](mailto:alaina@cedarridgecamp.com).

### BLOOD DRIVE

Upcoming dates for blood drives at Immanuel UCC are April 10 and June 5. Please consider donating blood or volunteering to work at the drives.

**BRP CHURCH FRONT DOOR MINISTRY:** Many come to the church door in need. Please consider: Donating **money** to purchase **TARC Partner Passes**, by writing a check to BRPres with "TARC passes" on the memo line and donating **Bumble Bee tuna and chicken boxed lunchables** and **men's toiletries (travel size)** is also helpful. Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

### MID-KENTUCKY PRESBYTERY

**Presbyterian Disaster Hygiene Kits:** MKP churches are invited to collect supplies and assemble over 1,500 personal hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Items needed are:

Toothbrushes, individually wrapped  
Unscented bar soaps, individually wrapped  
1-inch wide Band-Aids  
Nail clippers  
Wide-tooth combs (no picks)  
Washcloths  
Hand towels  
Zip Lock one-gallon baggies  
Monetary donations also accepted

**Can BRP provide 100 toothbrushes????** Place these and other listed items you wish to donate in the box provided in the sanctuary by Sunday, May 14, or deliver items to Beulah Presbyterian Church, 6704 Bardstown Road (502-239-3231), on May 15, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. or 6 - 7:30 P.M. You are also invited to assemble kits on Saturday, May 20, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. at Beulah PC.

**EARTH CARE CONGREGATION:** BRP has again been certified as an Earth Care Congregation of the PC(USA), because of our efforts to be good stewards of creation. To become certified as Earth Care Congregations churches take the "[Earth Care Pledge](#)" and complete activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach, and must reapply every year.



### GARDEN NEWS:

**Seed Swap:** Do you have some flower or vegetable seeds to share? At the Bardstown Road Farmers' Market on Saturday morning, April 15, we will share seeds at our table. If possible, provide seeds packaged in small amounts in envelopes or plastic baggies, with any planting instructions and a brief description of the plants which will grow from your seeds (height, flower color, etc.)—even pictures would be great! Seeds may be dropped off in the church office anytime in advance.

**Pollinator Garden:** With spring upon us, it's time to clean up the garden! Join us on **Earth Day**, Saturday, April 22, to weed, clean up debris, and plant. Green thumbs not necessary!

**MISSION (cont.)  
CLOUT**

CLOUT (Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together) is an organization of many churches around the Louisville area, helping members of those churches be more involved in social issues around the city. Examples of recent CLOUT initiatives are in the areas of police-community relations, addressing crime and violence, affordable housing, addressing the "school-to-prison pipeline," and helping older adults age in place.

Jennie Guelda and Margot Tomsen have attended many CLOUT meetings and have met with CLOUT staff persons. They invite all BRP members to come to a "town hall" meeting after church on **Sunday, May 7 at noon**. After lunch that afternoon, we'll hear a brief explanation of what CLOUT does and begin listing areas of concern that churches may be able to address. Are there particular concerns that BRP members would like the larger organization to study and address?

The BRP Session is considering joining CLOUT as a member congregation, and having all of us aware of the organization and what it does will help determine what the Session will do.

**RIP MEDICAL DEBT**

Medical debt is a big problem in the United States. Millions of Americans rack up so much debt over medical bills that they fall below the poverty line, and their lives are upended. Fortunately, there's a nonprofit called RIP Medical Debt that tries to address these problems. This nonprofit buys up debt for about a penny on the dollar and forgives that debt, allowing its beneficiaries to get back on their feet again.

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery has allocated some funds to make a donation to this nonprofit, and it's challenged congregations to do the same. The BRP Session has responded to the challenge by pledging \$2,000 to go to the Presbytery, to be added to the funds from other congregations and the Presbytery funds, and RIP Medical Debt will forgive the debt of thousands of people in the Kentucky area.

The Session asks that BRP members also consider making a direct donation to the nonprofit, through their website [ripmedicaldebt.org](http://ripmedicaldebt.org). Together, church members, church funds, and Presbytery funds can help thousands of our neighbors!



*Dreams With Wings Cabaret show 3/27/23 at BRP*

**LENTEN DINNER—WEEK ONE—MARCH 9  
REV. DR. ALONZO JOHNSON AND THE DRUM CIRCLE**



**LENTEN DINNER—WEEK TWO— MARCH 16**

Peggy Garrison & Nancy Carrington discussed the spirituality of Tai Chi & QiGong



**LAST LENTEN DINNER—MARCH 23**

Linda Bowman, Sally Griffith & Pastor Mark Inspired us with their creativity.



## HIGHLIGHTS March 2023 SESSION MEETING

- Rev. Eldred said he appreciated having the congregation coming forward for receiving communion and the trays passed for the offering during the service.
- Dreams With Wings will be presenting a cabaret show in Fellowship Hall on Monday March 27 at 5:00 P.M. which is open to the congregation to attend.
- Keith Clements reported on the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery Meeting at Second Presbyterian Church on February 25, 2023. Our 2020 and 2021 Session Meeting Minutes were approved, and Rev. Eldred, Alicia Bloos and Keith Clements attended Leadership Education Workshops before the meeting. A new worship mission plan was approved for the New Goshen Church site.
- The entrance canopy is completed with the lighting and "Welcome" sign installed. The framing will be painted after the wood is cured.
- A transfer letter of membership for John and Peggie Elgin has been received from First Presbyterian Church, Aiken, S. C. The clerk will acknowledge the request for transfer with a responding letter.
- The monthly income is ahead of expenses for February and all the annual prepay obligations have been paid. The balance difference of -\$4,984 for the year is due to extensive boiler and piping repairs.
- Two mini-split heating/cooling units will be installed in the kitchen and administration office with funding from the Capital Improvements budget.
- A review of the condition of the boiler heating system will be done in May when the system is shut down.
- The Kentucky Home School will have new leadership next school year and has been using the second floor of the church on Tuesdays from 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. They are planning to use the building on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Winter of 2024. Due to the change in the organization there will be a meeting with the group to review their use of the space and policies.
- A Tai Chi class, led by Kay Begley, has requested to use Fellowship Hall on Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 P.M. Their request was approved contingent on them getting a consent waiver for liability.
- The youth have been busy with Oriverye Nintije trying out for a football team and Justin on a soccer team. To help Sarah Hageman, volunteers are needed to take the kids to practices and games.
- Our church has been designated an Earth Care Congregation for 2023. Alicia Bloos was thanked for preparing the application.
- Rev. Cheryl Barnes will do a Minute for Mission about her World Mission work in Malawi at the March 26 Sunday service and will discuss it further during the potluck luncheon that follows.
- Jennie Guelda and Margot Tomsen will attend the CLOUT Nehemiah gathering on March 27. Following that meeting our church will have a townhall gathering May 7 with the congregation to consider any social justice issues we would like to propose to CLOUT.
- The pollinator garden will spring to life with a seed swap on April 15 and weeding, cultivating, and planting the garden on April 22 (Earth Day).
- The RIP Medical Debt proposal sponsored by Mid-Kentucky Presbytery is intended to eliminate medical debt for those in need in our community. Churches are requested to contribute to this campaign. Our church approved donating \$2,000 from the Mission Bequest Fund with the request that the Presbytery increase their funding.
- Bread for the World Sunday will be April 16 with a Minute for Mission and an offering of letters of support to congressmen on April 30.
- The Faith and Justice Table at the Farmer's Market will resume with Community Grocery on April 1 and Bread for the World on May 13.
- Highlands Community Ministries raised over \$7,000 at the Mardi Gras fundraiser.
- The Permanent Nominating Committee will be asking for suggestions from the congregation for a person to serve on the Session for the Class of 2026.
- The Easter Breakfast in the park will be at the smaller pavilion (Stegner) near Hogan's Fountain on April 8. Since there are no grills available, there will be no cooked meat. Casseroles and quiches are encouraged to be served.
- Donations are requested for Easter Lilies and eco-palms will be used on Palm Sunday.
- The church approved to be in solidarity with the other HCM churches that are partnering with Highlands Community Ministries to support the Drag Revival with a donation of \$250.00.
- There was a thoughtful discussion about the extent our church should support LGBTQ inclusivity to become an open and welcoming congregation. This conversation will continue.

## EASTER LILIES

We will be ordering Easter lilies through the Kentuckiana Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation again this year. The cost is \$10.75. Please place your orders as soon as possible.

## Save The Date

**Rev. Abbi Heimach-Snipes's Installation Service** with Covenant Community Church will be on Sunday April 30th at 5:00 P.M. in the BRPC Sanctuary. All are welcome!

# April 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b> 9 AM to Noon Farmers' Market
<b>2 Palm Sunday</b> <b>OGHS</b> 10 a.m. Palm Parade 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	<b>3</b> 5-6:00 pm Stand in Solidarity	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday in FSH	<b>7</b> 5:00 P.M. Good Friday in Sanctuary	<b>8</b> 9 AM to Noon Farmers' Market  9- Noon Easter Breakfast
<b>9 Easter Sunday</b> 10 a.m. Fellowship 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10 a.m. Congregational Care Mtg	<b>12</b> 7pm Mission Committee	<b>13</b> 7 pm Personnel Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9 AM to Noon Farmers' Market  9-Noon Seedling Exchange
<b>16</b> 10 a.m. Fellowship 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	<b>17</b> 7pm Worship Team Meeting  5-6:00 pm Stand in Solidarity	<b>18</b> 7 p.m. Session Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9 AM to Noon Farmers' Market  1-5PM outdoor property clean- up at BRP
<b>23</b> 10 a.m. Fellowship 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9 AM to Noon Farmers' Market
<b>30</b> 10 a.m. Fellowship 11 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching						



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## **Advocating to End Hunger Offering of Letters April 30, 2023**

**“..But he (Jesus) answered, “You give them something to eat.” -Mark 6:37 (NIV)**

Feeding the hungry is becoming more difficult in recent days. We are all seeing rising prices in the grocery stores, and at the beginning of March SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program aka food stamps) were cut back to pre-pandemic levels.

Bread for the World ([www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)) is an interdenominational Christian group that advocates for policies to help end hunger, both at home and abroad.

This year, a major focus for Bread for the World is the Farm Bill. This is a piece of legislation that has to be renewed every five years and is up for vote in September, 2023. The Farm bill governs both US and global agriculture and food policy and programs. About 75% of SNAP funding is through the Farm Bill, as well as several important international food aid programs.

Bread for the World is requesting we write our senators and representatives in support of renewing the Farm Bill. They also request we support increasing the nutritional aspect of the program, by measures such as increasing access to fresh produce in the SNAP program. They also support equity in dealing with both food aid recipients and food producers. Sustainability is also important, as growing practices must be sustainable in this time of climate change.

Because hand-written letters are preferred, the Mission Committee is hosting an Offering of Letters after worship on April 30. We will provide, pens, paper, and pizza! We will also provide templates and bullet points to consider. These letters will be collected and delivered with a cover letter to the offices of Sen. Mitch McConnell, Sen. Rand Paul, and Rep. Morgan McGarvey. If you live in a different district, please write to your own Representative as well.

If you have questions, please contact Carol Brees. There will be more information distributed in the two weeks before the event. Hope to see you there!