



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

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November
2020

Greetings Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church,

As we head in to an interesting week in the life of our nation, I send my blessings to each of you and pray that you are all finding your ways through these challenging and unprecedented times. I know that in 2016, Rev. Chris set aside some time for y'all to discuss the goings on of the nation with the 2016 election. I have to be honest that with us not being able to gather in person in large groups, I have decided to only ask each of you to be in prayer for the many struggles in our world, for the division in our nation, and for the continuance of empathy, mercy, grace, and love in our world.

I don't know about you, but I feel continually behind on almost everything. I had some lofty goals of things that I wanted to achieve in my first several years here with you, and I have had to humbly bow to the realities that we are up against. The truth is that there aren't answers for everything. There isn't always a simple answer or solution for every problem or situation that arises. All of us are experiencing this time differently and uniquely, and have individual challenges that are often not easily solved. I only ask that we remember that we are all in this together as one children of God.

Our Stewardship Committee has chosen a word that I wonder if we might continue to focus on in every aspect of our lives - Compassion. This past summer, Compassion was the central theme for Vacation Bible School that we shared virtually with Immanuel United Church of Christ. "Compassionate Giving" is the theme for our Stewardship 2021 campaign. I don't see any reason that Compassion shouldn't be the theme for everything that we do over this next 2020-2021 calendar year.

In this newsletter are ways in which we can all begin to use our imagination, energy, intelligence, and love to continue to be compassionate in and through our faith. May we start to slowly re-engage, re-invest, and re-new in all ways available to us? Your patience has been much appreciated. Your presence continues to be felt through virtual and in-person worship. Your love and compassion for BrPres is a true gift. I want to thank you all for a first wonderful year as your pastor, and I truly look forward to many, many, more as we continue to serve God together.

God's blessings to all,

Pastor Mark



Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus officiated at BRP on Sunday October 18, 2020. She and her daughter, Gillian Hollis, added their beautiful voices to the service!

THANK OFFERING—November 22

Starting back in 1888 women, and then men, have raised tens of millions of dollars for worthwhile mission projects. Due to the generosity of people choosing this way of expressing gratitude for the blessings in their own lives, this year, after reviewing 49 applications, 15 projects were chosen for funding this year. Thirteen will serve people in the United States and two are international. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than 40 percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries.

What emerges from these choices made by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee is a strong desire to help provide the tangible love of Christ through food for children who are hungry, education for women who are seeking it, support for immigrants who need friends, shelter for those without beds and homes, and healing for those at home and abroad.

As the prophet Jeremiah reminds us “God hears us when we cry out”. It is through our offerings and our ministry to others that we help demonstrate the power of God’s love throughout the world.

What we give now will determine the grants given next year. Bring your offering on November 22nd (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) or mail it in, or use the online method. Please keep the committee that makes these difficult choices in your prayers.

The Mission Committee

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sally Gamble	3
Martin Blakeley	9
Marcia Hageman	9
Rachel Parsons-Wells	10
Devin Clements	11
Stevenline Waritay	14
Daniel Rapp	17
Ann Yates	18
Johanna Fears	19
Rebecca Johnson	19
Theo Shafer	21
Tom FitzGerald	22
Malinda Brockman	25
Samantha Kellgren	25
Carol Brees	26
Marge Rice	28
Melissa Ortiz	29

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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OCTOBER 20, 2020 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Rev. Mark Eldred presented the opening prayer that was prepared by Rev. Bill Williamson expressing prayers for current concerns.
- Rev. Mark Eldred shared that his past two weeks of devotion and study leave was focused on “Ask, Seek and Knock” from Luke 11:9-10. The first week was about annual planning and the second week involved pre-strategic planning.
- The Treasurer’s report for September 2020 had a total income of \$48,904 and total expenses of \$14,371 showing a positive difference of \$34,533 and year to date balance of \$46,936. The strong income was due to income from bequest investments including the Brabandt and Endowment funds.
- Each committee presenter was asked to state two reasons they are most proud of with their committee work.
- LLester Gamble said the MSD has repaired the sewer connection at the front of the church and will ask the Louisville Water Company to do an assessment of the water system consumption.
- Anne Campbell reported for the Congregational Life Committee that church members will be matched with other members to keep in touch like the Care Bears program.
- A Social Justice Committee is being organized with Margot Tomsen volunteering to chair the committee.
- The Administration Committee chaired by Lin Block-Coalter will be improving our technology for social media and utilizing the services of PCUSA for communication networking.
- Jennie Guelda said the Stewardship Committee is preparing their presentations using scripture based on the theme of compassion preceding Pledge Sunday on November 15. Two letters will be sent to families of active members and to members who are inactive. These letters will be story based with a vision to resonate with members.
- Keith Clements reviewed the Personnel committee meeting that recommended 2% increase of salaries for the pastor and church employees. Staff employees who qualify will participate in the Temporary and Long-term Disability benefits offered by the PCUSA Board of Pensions.
- A donation will be made to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program in lieu of reimbursing Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus for her leading the October 18 Sunday service.
- Anne Campbell suggested that the hand bells be used for the music during the Sunday services. Acrylic stands for the bell ringers to read music easier will be purchased. Banners will be fabricated by Beverly Gradisek to display in the Sanctuary for liturgical events, like Advent.
- Future “Standing in Solidarity” dates were approved for the following Mondays: October 26, November 2 (election eve), November 16 and 30, December 14 and 28.

STEWARDSHIP

We are Blessed.

It is the season of stewardship where we pledge our time, talents, and treasure to the continuing operation of God’s Church. As we noted in our letter to the members of our congregation, our church and our stewardship has touched many people in our community. The continuing impact depends upon our involvement and commitment to keeping the church available.



With the attrition of members and loss of many friends, maintaining the church has been more difficult for so many who have given what they can. Fortunately, many of those who are no longer with us have remembered the church in their will in a final gift to help fund the church. The good stewardship of these funds has allowed us to handle the problems an older building faces and continue to provide the home for all the community programs we support. In the past year, the number of pledges has dropped, and our budget has had to rely more on the endowment. Those who use our building provide “love gifts,” but since most serve the neediest people, their income is not sufficient to carry the burden of upkeep and maintenance. Our mission to the greater community has been to make BRP a place to rely upon to provide support to organizations that need space to carry out their goals in helping those in need. We also support many other organizations through our pledges.

Now is the season, now is the time to consider our support to carry us forward into another year and share our blessings with those who are less fortunate. I hope that you will join us as a cheerful giver in considering your pledge of time, talent, and treasure on November 15th. Think of it as another opportunity to vote with your dollars for a church that is making a difference in so many lives.

Jennie, Alicia, Ivona, and Bill

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.

CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

There will be a Called Meeting of the congregation on Sunday Nov. 29 after the 11 AM service for the purpose of electing a treasurer and approving the Pastor Terms of Call.

JOIN OTHER ADULTS IN READING HOWARD THURMAN AND MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Last Lenten season, I chose Howard Thurman as our first way in which to gather to discuss our faith, not fully knowing what the world would demand of us in the months that would follow.

Seven months ago, we read Thurman and MLK Jr. in one context, and here we are knee-deep, together, in a new one - like it or not, the reality is that our times change and it asks something of our faith in response. I hope that you will gather in one of the Adult Conversation groups to further discuss Thurman/MLK Jr. and your own faith, and how Covid, racial injustice, national political divide, and continuing economic division, among many other parts of our current context, might be asking of you as we finish up the year 2020 together. On November 8, December 13 and January 10, I will be offering a Sunday after church in-person gathering either in Fellowship Hall, limited to seven people. If I need a second group, I will add a second Sunday after church on November 15, December 20, and January 17. I will also offer a Zoom gathering Mondays November 9, December 15, and January 11 at a time convenient for the majority of those who would wish to gather via zoom to discuss Thurman and MLK Jr.

We are not starting over, we are starting again, in a new context, in a new time in our world. I hope that you will join in either in-person or virtually via zoom.

ADVENT FAMILY DINNERS 2020

There was a time in the history of our nation where the home was central and all that many had at the holidays. People often had to travel long distances for church and for school.

If the weather was bad or the church far, far away, then families made due with what they had at home. Many seasonal traditions have stayed with us for centuries upon centuries.

I know that this Advent and Christmas holiday season is going to provide us with challenges that we had never dreamed of. And although I grieve the 'normal' that will most probably not occur on Christmas Eve, I wonder what God might be asking of us in this moment and time? Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell, who just retired as pastor of Highland Presbyterian Church, wrote a book last year called "*Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes; an Advent Study*". Y'all might not know this, but prior to arriving in Louisville to be the pastor of Highland Presbyterian, Rev. Dr. Cynthia was the President of my seminary, McCormick Theological Seminary, in Chicago.

I wonder if God might be asking us this year to slow down, to find some appreciation in the simple moments and surroundings that we find ourselves in at holiday time, and to virtually share some of the family traditions handed down to us of the food, faith, and music traditions of our families over the many generations before us?

Starting on Advent 1, November 29, as a congregation we will share together in Rev. Dr. Cynthia's book and in virtually shared Advent Dinners in groups of two or three families from our homes. Stay tuned for exact dates and times of the dinner gatherings, and may Rev. Dr. Cynthia's book and the story of the life and birth of our Lord Jesus Christ be the guide to our church family's gatherings and conversations this Advent Season!

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR WITH PASTOR MARK

We are almost two months in and it is time to set aside some time to gather virtually via zoom to talk about how this is all going for all of us. I am suggesting the Second Wednesday of every month.

I could do a zoom in the afternoon and one in the evening; :45 minutes just to check in with one another – I will provide two prompts ahead of time for our monthly conversation. These dates would be November 11, December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 7, August 11. If Zoom is something that you have never used before, we can find a way to assist you with learning to use Zoom. You will need access to a computer/laptop that has a camera – and you will receive a link to a zoom meeting and a password to log in to the zoom gathering which I set up. You can also access zoom by downloading the Zoom app on to a smart phone. In the meantime, blessings on your reading. If you are behind, just stop where you are and pick it back up at the start of a new month. I will offer this again next year!



TRICK OR TREAT?

When the people can't come to the church, the church needs to go to the people!!

This Halloween Saturday October 31, the church will gather in the parking lot at 2PM to divide up treats and go out to our families with children and youth to share in the Halloween trick or treat spirit.

We know this has been a challenging time for our young people, and hope that they are finding some small ways to enjoy this Halloween season. Be safe, be healthy!

Don't forget to "Fall Back" by turning your clocks back an hour (extra hour of sleep), and take a look up at what is supposed to be a glorious full moon on October 31st.





BRPC Solidarity Stand -in on Monday October 12, 2020



Saturday October 17, 2020 Habitat workday



Got her done! Voting day for Linda White.



MISSION COMMITTEE

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Empty Bowls, HCM's annual fundraiser to fight hunger, had a different look this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As the annual in-person soup supper event scheduled for October 8 was not possible, donations were accepted by mail and online, and donors were entered into a drawing for restaurant gift cards, donated by board members, or sets of pottery crafted by the talented potters who provide the bowls usually sold at the event. **Four BRPres members were winners!** To date, the event has raised around \$12,465. If you missed the chance to donate, you may still visit the website at www.hcmlouisville.org to contribute. Thank you for your support!

The annual **HCM Christmas baskets** for needy neighbors will be different this year, too, due to Covid-19. We will be 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:

1. Purchase one or more \$25 gift cards and/or a throw blanket.
2. 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.
3. If you are unable to drop off during those times, contact HCM's Danah Smith, IFAP and Senior Outreach Director, at 256-337-7047 or dsmith@hcmlouisville.org to arrange an alternate time.
4. If you would rather make a monetary donation through our church, mark your donation "HCM Christmas baskets"
5. Visit HCM's website, hcmlouisville.org, to donate directly.
6. Questions? Contact Danah Smith (see above) or Alicia Bloos 502-496-0345
Watch for reminders in the December newsletter, upcoming church worship bulletins, and emails.

HCM Curbside Food Drive & Christmas Giveaway Program—November 22

Our Holiday Curbside Food Drive is set for Sunday, November 22, 12-2 pm, front entrance at 1228 E. Breckenridge St. Pull up and our volunteers will unload from your vehicle!

We are seeking the following donations: Non perishable food, new and unopened personal hygiene items and \$25 gift cards to Target, Walmart, Kroger.

(see next column)

BRPC FOOD PANTRY and TARC BUS PASSES

We often want to help those who come to the church door in need. Please consider donating.

As always the BRPC office needs food items such as: tuna and chicken lunchables, beanie weenies.

Or make a financial contribution to help with our purchase of TARC Partner Passes, as we have no budgeted money for passes at this time. You may mail a check to church with "TARC passes" on the memo line. Thank you!

CEDAR RIDGE CAMP

Autumn Under the Cedars, the annual fundraiser for Cedar Ridge, was virtual this year, with some new elements such as online painting and cooking classes, balloon donations delivered to front yards with "Proud Supporter" signs, and a "table" donation for which a tree will be planted in the donor's honor! The event still featured exciting raffles with the big prize being a 70" Samsung Smart TV. The culmination of the event was 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.

To date, over \$19, 600 has been raised! If you missed a chance to contribute, **donations** are still being accepted on the website, cedarridgecamp.com. Bardstown Road Pres has been a faithful supporter of Cedar Ridge through the years...thank you so much!!!

HABITAT NEWS

Four BRP volunteers met in the cool early morning of October 17 to work on the new Habitat house being built by several Presbyterian churches. At first, Alex, of the Habitat staff, talked about the houses and the work that was scheduled for the day. Right away, Mary Mpanje and Emmanuel Muyenza started to work on some exterior painting. Bill Bowman sawed some of the plastic material for soffits, and Clare Lewis nailed the soffits in place (climbing a ladder multiple times to nail them up).

In the early afternoon, the entire crew had a chance to cut siding and nail the boards in place. Everyone had a good time, there were no injuries, we learned some new skills, and all hope to meet again next month for another workday. Details about the next workday, a Saturday in November, will be available soon. Please join the team then!

The next Habitat workday is Saturday November 7, 2020. Please contact Bill Bowman.

Non-perishable food

- Hearty Soups & Stews with crackers
- Hearty Pasta and Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Meat and Tuna

New and unopened personal hygiene items

Bar Soap, Shampoo, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Shaving Cream

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	2	3 Election Day	4	5 7pm Personnel Committee Mtg Club Room	6	7 9-12 Farmer's Market 8:30 am Habitat work day
8 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	9 10am Congregation- al Care Mtg FS Hall	10 7pm Mission Team Email meeting	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14 9-12 Farmer's Market Presbytery Mtg via Zoom
15 Stewardship Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching	16 7pm Worship Com- mittee Mtg	17 7pm Session Meeting	18	19	20	21 9-12 Farmer's Market
Rev. Eldred will be on vacation from Nov 19 through Nov 29						
22 Communion Thank Offering 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred Preaching	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day Church office closed	27 <i>Church office closed</i>	28 9-12 Farmer's Market
29 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred Preaching Noon Called Meeting of the Congregation	30					



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PLACE
 STAMP
 HERE



For those with phones or devices with scan readers, you can scan the image above and it will open the BRP website. For others, the web page is at www.brpres.org

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THESE BRAVE WORKERS

Your healthcare workers are EXHAUSTED. Mentally and physically. Love us like you did when you first heard of covid. Maybe even more. We're months into this and our profession has forever changed. People are bailing left and right leaving us stretched thin with staff. Our communities however are still sick and maybe even worse than before. We won't let you and your families down so please don't forget us. We need your love, your affection, your support. That is all...



IF THIS
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 JUST
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**35th BARDSTOWN ROAD AGLOW
 2020 EVENT!** *(from the website)*

The 35th annual Bardstown Road Aglow will be on Saturday, December 5, 2020, beginning at dusk until 10 p.m., with dozens of restaurants and shops lighting up to celebrate the holiday shopping season. The fun starts at dusk.

Santa Claus will kick off the traditional festivities with the lighting of Highlands Holiday Tree in front of Wendy's at Bardstown Road and Grinstead Drive—at a safe, social distance. This season, many of the popular celebrations may be scaled back due to COVID-19 precautions, but the holiday lights, many festivities, and seasonal discounts will continue.