

**Celebrating 117+
Years of Ministry**

1906-2023

**Bardstown Road
Presbyterian**



**Newsletter
Volume 56
Issue 11**

**November
2023**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

It is hard to believe that we are already talking about Thanksgiving and Christmas and it isn't even Halloween, but that is how the life of a church works. We are already planning ahead for special gatherings outside of Sundays - Bardstown Road Aglow, a return of (formerly) Coterie to a CoffeeStop, Progressive Dinner, Greening the Church, and so many other annual events that occur this time of year.

I recently served through the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky as a delegate to the Kentucky Council of Churches. It was two days of jam packed conference with multiple speakers, and meetings, and workshops, and did I mention meetings? Among mention by one of the keynote speakers was a line from a Christmas hymn/song that I have sung in public so many times - O Holy Night. The line that was lifted up was 'long lay the world in sin and error pining, til' he (Jesus) appeared, and the soul felt its worth. The next line is "the thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices". I don't know about you, but I have sensed a lot of weary lately across the board. It is a heavy time in a lot of areas of our lives, both locally in our city and state, and all around the world.

I have only one hope for our two Advent Dinners on December 7 and December 14, and that is joy; maybe even defiant joy in the face of much going on in our world. My hope is that we can gather in fellowship simply for the sake of gathering in fellowship - to share a meal with one another and to maybe sing a Christmas carol or two? An added bit of fun will be a Chili Cook off and a Church Bake off. Who doesn't love Chili when the weather outside gets cold? Stay tuned in the December newsletter for more details regarding these gatherings.

You might be asking yourself is food enough for an Advent Dinner Gathering? Don't we need a program, or some formal presentation, or a speaker, or something other than a meal? Years ago already, I read a book for seminary "Good Food; Grounded Practical Theology" by Jennifer R. Ayers, Professor at Emory University, Candler School of Theology. The book is a wonderful explanation of the process of our food and how injustices have found their way in to this most vital of our essentials. Can I ask a favor? When you participate in the December 7 and December 14 event, let's all intentionally pray through the entire process. Where does our food come from? How many people and moves does it take to get the food from its source to our table? To whom do we give thanks for this process? A gathering of a meal has enough embedded theology for many, many conversations. I look forward to participating at table with a bit of fun competition for our community. In the end, I pray much joy on our gatherings!

Blessings to all, Pastor Mark



Stewardship 2024

The Stewardship Committee (Llester Gamble, Kris Bloos and Carol Brees) has selected the theme of Refuge for our 2024 Stewardship Season.

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
so that those who love your name may
exult in you.

Ps 5:11

We rejoiced in the ability to gather again last year after COVID. Now, with all that is going on in our lives, in the lives of our community and the world around us, we see the need for a safe space. Our church is striving to be just that—a place where all people can rejoice under the wings of God’s protection.

You will hear Minutes for Mission on Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and Nov. 12 that will articulate this vision in more detail. You will also be receiving a letter in early November encouraging you to consider what God may be leading you to give financially towards making our church a refuge.

November 19 will be Stewardship Sunday when we celebrate what we are able to give for God’s work out of all God has so graciously given us. Please bring the pledge cards that will be included in your letter to that service.

We will celebrate after church, Nov 12, with a potluck lunch, in anticipation of all God will be doing in and through us in the coming year.

Thank you for being partners in ministry through Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sally Gamble	3
Sally Griffith	5
Martin Blakeley	9
Marcia Hageman	9
Devin Clements	11
Stevenline Waritay	14
Daniel Rapp	17
Ann Yates	18
Johanna Fears	19
Rebecca Johnson	19
Theo Shafer Bondurant	21
Tom FitzGerald	22
Malinda Brockman	25
Samantha Guelda Kellgren	25
Carol Brees	26
Marge Rice	28
Melissa Ortiz	29

Men's Fellowship Gathering

The Men of the Church will gather for a fellowship outing at Pivot Brewing Thursday November 2, 5:00-6:30PM. Pivot Brewing is just across the street from our parking lot, south of the fire station and next to the Purrfect Day Cat Café. We look forward to the first informal gathering of the men of the church. Be looking for more dates for gathering for breakfast and more happy hours.

Greening of the Church - November 30th

On Thursday, November 30, 4PM-8PM we will participate in preparing our building and sanctuary for the Advent Season. This year is a bit of an anomaly that doesn't happen often as Christmas Eve is the Fourth Sunday of Advent AND Christmas Eve. This moves the first Sunday off Advent to the Sunday after the big Thanksgiving Weekend, which is usually First Sunday of Advent. We hope that you will join us at the church after 4PM to assist in decorating the church building and greening the Sanctuary. There will be Pizza! Those wishing to participate in the final evening of the Adult Education Testimony class are invited to stay after pizza for a brief wrap-up of that conversation.

2024 All Church Retreat save the date

We know it is very early, but please pencil in on your calendars a return to Cedar Ridge Camp in grand fashion for an entire weekend of camping and activities the weekend of August 23, 24, 25, 2024 - next summer! We hope to have a full cast of participation in our return to an annual church retreat at the camp.

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Mark Eldred	Pastor
Rev. Bill Williamson	Parish Associate
Jeanie Grosz	Director of Music Ministries/ Organist
Sarah Hageman	Director of Children's and Youth Ministry
Eric Lanier	Sexton
Johanna Fears	Administrator
Marty Hageman	Treasurer

Editor, Johanna Fears

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ADVENT DINNERS --POTLUCKS, POTLUCKS! BRP DATES TO REMEMBER

There are two Advent Dinners this year: **December 7 and 14.**

Do you like to cook or make appetizers, cookies, or other desserts? Then we need you!

Sunday, Nov. 12: There is a Pot Luck lunch after worship — please bring a dish to serve 6-8 people.

In conjunction with Mission Committee on either Nov. 30 or Dec. 1, we will make tomato basil soup in the BRP kitchen for Bardstown Road Aglow which is Saturday, Dec. 2. We will also need cookies to be donated for that event.

Sunday, Dec. 3: The CoffeeStop concert with Coterie will happen with desserts and coffee needed. (details below)

Thursday, Dec. 7: Once again, desserts will be needed for the first Advent Dinner with the Chili Cookoff.

Saturday, Dec. 9: The Progressive Dinner will have two courses: heavy appetizers at one home and desserts at another home. Once again, appetizers and/or desserts are requested.

Thursday, Dec. 14 there is the second Advent Dinner with a Dessert Bakeoff.

So - when grocery shopping, stock up on ingredients for appetizers, cookies and desserts - and pot-luck dishes.

More information on each of these events will be in the Sunday bulletins. Thank you for helping in this very busy season!



COFFEESTOP CONCERT

Coterie 2.0 coffee Stop Concert will be December 3rd. It will begin in Sanctuary at 6:30 pm. After coffee and dessert break we will celebrate the lighter side of the holidays. Although there is no charge for this event, any lovegift will be used to help those unhoused and others through HCM individual and Family Assistance Programs. Hope you all can be there. Perhaps we might have a surprise guest. You never know.

Don't forget to "Fall Back" by turning your clocks back an hour (extra hour of sleep), on **November 5.**

Stewardship: Beginning three Sundays—**October 29, November 5, November 12** (with potluck after church and **Stewardship Sunday- November 19.**

The next Biennial Tri-Presbytery Meeting will be Thursday and Friday **November 10 & 11 2023** at Harvey Browne Church.

November 30: 4-8:00 P.M. Greening of the church.

December 2 Flute Studio—4:00 P.M.

Beautiful Christmas selections by a local flute choir directed by Tony Watson; and is right before Bardstown Road Aglow in the Sanctuary.

December 2: Bardstown Road Aglow

December 3 Coffeestop at 7pm in the Sanctuary and then Fellowship Hall (Christmas CoffeeStop with the vocal group formerly known as Coterie .

Advent Dinners—December 7, 14

December 9 Progressive Dinner is Back! Although altered a little. Save the date of Saturday, December 9, for the BRP Progressive Dinner. This year there will only be two courses: heavy appetizers and desserts. The homes have not been determined yet, so more details will come in the December newsletter and the Sunday bulletins. This is traditionally an adults only event - going on 40 years. So, save the date and watch for more details as they become available.

December 10 Congregational meeting (treasurer and terms of call)

December 19 the Longest Night Service at 6:00 P.M.

December 24 the Christmas Eve Services are at 11:00AM for the Pageant: 4:00 P.M. (livestreamed and in person) and 11 P.M. in person only)

December 25 No services at BRP

Enjoy Christmas Day at home!



OCTOBER 2023 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Rev. Eldred continued the session discussion on our Core Ministry priorities. He shared his involvement with CLOUT meetings and explained his work with our new seminarian under care, Grace-Love.
- Marty Hageman reviewed the September Treasurer's Report and a Third Quarter Finance Report with the session. Molly Rapp reported on the progress of the Personnel budget for 2024. A special meeting on the 2024 budget will take place on November 18th at 8:30 a.m.
- Rev. Eldred shared that BRP member, Ella Hunt, died on September 9, 2023. Her memorial service was held on September 23, 2023.
- Rev. Eldred reported that Youth and Children's programs will continue to gather on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in November and December.
- Important calendar dates were shared which include the following: October 28th and November 4th for Project Warm, November 4th, Faith and Justice Table – HCM, November 12th, Potluck after church for Stewardship, November 30th, Hanging of the Greens, December 2nd, Bardstown Road Aglow/Flute Choir, December 3rd, Coffee Stop, December 7th and 14th for Advent Dinners, December 9th for the Progressive Dinner, and December 19th for the Longest Night Service.
- Carol Brees reported that Stewardship letters will go out the first week in November. Stewardship Sunday will be November 19th. The next communion date is Sunday, November 5th.
- The Community Problems Assembly for CLOUT will be held on October 30, 2023. The issues they will focus on include gun violence, reading improvement for students, elder care, and police/community relations.
- Rev. Eldred will be on Study Leave from November 13th-17th.

Molly Rapp- Clerk of Session



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 2023. Anything received after that date will be credited as a 2024 donation. Your prayers, financial support, and amazing generosity are truly inspiring and greatly appreciated as we share in ministry through BRPC.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY ANIMALS FOR THE WORLD –2023

We will order poinsettias for the sanctuary this year to continue the tradition of decorating the Sanctuary as part of our Christmas celebration! The cost is \$12.25 for each plant.

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 (451-8305) or via email, (johanna@brpres.org). There will also be order forms in the bulletins on future Sundays. We continue the tradition of dedicating your gift in honor or in memory of a loved one. The deadline for Poinsettia/Heifer orders is **December 3**.

YOUTH KICK-OFF SUNDAY OCTOBER 1 2023



MISSION COMMITTEE

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

MANY THANKS to all who donated during the September 14 GIVE FOR GOOD drive, and thanks, again, to all who donated backpacks, and food and toiletry items, to help support HCM's Summer Food and Back to School Drive. Because of your generosity, HCM continues to assist our community in so many ways.

HCM staff will join us at our **Faith and Justice Table at Farmers' Market on Sat., Nov. 4**, to receive donations for the **Christmas Giving drive**. Items requested are throw blankets and \$25 Walmart and Kroger gift cards. You may bring items to the market that day, 9 A.M. till 12 P.M., or bring to church in advance. Throw blankets may be left in the back of the sanctuary and gift cards may be left in the envelope provided in the church office ...OR deliver directly to the HCM food pantry at 1228 E. Breckinridge on these dates:

Wed., Nov. 29th, 1-3 pm

Thu., Nov. 30th, 1-3pm

Fri, Dec. 1st, 10am-noon

If you have any questions, please call HCM at 502/451-3695 and speak with either Danah (x213) or Tiffany (x260).

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 hcmlouisville.org.

CEDAR RIDGE CAMP

THANK YOU to everyone who supported Autumn Under the Cedars, the annual fundraiser gala for Cedar Ridge Camp. Special thanks to Nancy Williamson, Sally Griffith, and Molly Rapp for donating wine for the BRP wine raffle basket—it was lovely! Thanks also to Paul and Shannon Johnson and Doug and Molly Rapp for joining us at the BRP dinner table at the event. It was a fun night!

INTERESTED in part-time work leading a camp activity for children, youth, or adults? Facilitators (from young adults to seniors) are needed year-round for school, church, and other groups. Activities include Archery, Canoeing, Fishing, Hiking, Team Building, Hayrides, Campfires, Native American Lore, Settlers' Toys, Orienteering, Trekking Through the Trees, Bug Safari, Crime Scene Investigation, Low Ropes Courses, and Ziplining.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, activities for school groups include Christmas in Mexico, Christmas in Germany, Chinese New Year, Hanukkah, and Kwanza.

(Pictures are on page 6)

BRP FRONT DOOR MINISTRY

Can you help those who come to the church door in need?

Please consider: Donating money to purchase TARC Partner Passes, discounted bus passes for those who are elderly, disabled, or on assistance. The need has multiplied, but the budget is small! You may write a check to BRPres with "TARC passes" on the memo line.

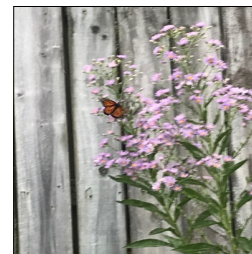
Donating chicken and tuna lunchables are always helpful. We can use caps, scarves, gloves for the colder weather and as always, socks. Also, travel size men's toiletries, and package of razors.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

POLLINATOR GARDEN

The church's pollinator garden, next to the parking lot, is going to get a well-deserved rest during the winter months! Still, take a moment to enjoy the purple fall asters in all their glory!

Watering the garden during the spring and summer months takes a village, and the church extends its thanks to the following waterers: Alicia Bloos, Bill Bowman, Carol and Jim Brees, Keith Clements, Mark Eldred, Jennie Guelda, Paul Johnson, Ding Moss, Mary and Emmanuel Muyenza, and Bill and Nancy Williamson. Many thanks to all!



HABITAT NEWS

Please mark the date of **Saturday, November 11**, for the next Habitat workday! A group from BRP will be joining other Presbyterians that Saturday to work on the new Habitat house under construction in the Park Springs neighborhood. No experience or special tools are required.

Please contact Bill Bowman if you're able to work half a day or a full day that Saturday.

CLOUT

Thanks to all the folks who turned out for three house meetings in September, as we kicked off our first year as members of CLOUT, Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together. Special thanks to Jennie Guelda and Paul Johnson who hosted the meetings.

The next event is the Community Problems Assembly, on October 30. After that, we'll be spending time learning more about CLOUT's initiatives for the coming calendar year. Check with Jennie or Paul if you want more information, or you want to become more involved in this organization. (continued on next page)

AUTUMN UNDER THE CEDARS



A festive Reformation Sunday at BRPres with guest musicians!



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 5 PM Men of the Church 5PM Pivot Brewing Co	3	4 9-12 Farmer's Market Justice & Faith Table
5 Communion 11:00 a.m. Worship Seminarian Grace- Love preaching Turn clocks back one hour	6 5-6 pm Standing in Solidarity	7 Election Day	8 5:30 PM Outreach	9 6 PM Adult Ed	10 9:30 am Presbytery meeting	11 9-12 Farmer's Market Veterans Day 9:30 am Presbytery meeting
12 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred preaching Noon: Potluck	13 10am Congregational Care Mtg	14	15 4 PM Mission Committee Fellowship Hall	16	17	18 9-12 Farmer's Market
19 Christ the King Stewardship Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Eldred Preaching	20 5-6 pm Standing in Solidarity 7pm Worship Committee Mtg	21 7pm Session Meeting	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Church office closed	24 <i>Church office closed</i>	25 9-12 Farmer's Market
26 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Mark Eldred Preaching	27	28	29	30 4-8PM Hanging of the Greens and pizza Adult Ed after Pizza		

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Years of Ministry**

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Church**



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Electronic Giving Reminder



Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Direct debit giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking account or savings account to the church's bank account.

Credit and debit card giving allows you to make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.

Online giving allows you to go to www.brpres.org, at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.

Sincerely,

The Finance and Stewardship Committees

Scan here

