

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER NEWS



DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Rev. John White

With the 2024 presidential election looming, tensions seem to be quite high. Perhaps, more than in any other election in recent memory, each side is heralding the unmitigated doom of our country, should their candidate not win. Plenty of Christians are panicking. That said, what might be a word to the Church in these times?

In Philippians 3:20, Paul wrote, "**...our citizenship is in heaven and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.**" Paul wrote this as a Roman citizen in the early 60s A.D. At that time, the average overall life span was between 22 to 33 years. Newborn baby girls were routinely deserted in garbage dumps because females were not able to produce as much income as males. Crowds cheered at the spectacle of human beings getting torn to pieces by animals. On the throne at the time of Paul's writing was Nero who was said to have decorated elaborate parties in his Golden Palace with Christians set afire as human torches...and members of churches in the U.S. see the signs of our times as harbingers of doomsday?

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DUAL CITIZENSHIP, CONT'D

We, who are genuinely in Christ, are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. We have been rendered capable of seeing the handiwork of God all around us with the eyes of our hearts enlightened. With ears increasingly tuned, we can hear the voice of Jesus as He comforts us, encourages us, and directs us to come to the aid of others. We can even feel, at times, His lovely palpable presence where two or more of us are gathered...oh, yeah, and with the God of the universe dwelling inside of us by the power of His Holy Spirit, we can luxuriate on His promise that, in spite of the worst turmoil Christians may experience here, we'll see the face of God hereafter and dwell with Him forever.

Though the state of our nation's union has its multiplicity of grievous flaws-which may well increase and degrade with time-the state of the Kingdom is strong, it's expanding, and our Leader holds the entire world in His hands. Everything about Jesus, from the decisions He makes, the output of work He does, to the attractively beautiful demeanor He exudes, everything about our King is perfect. As we wait for Him to return, may we be filled with the peace and the joy He offers, may we communicate the reality of Jesus and His Kingdom to others who are panicking, and may we truly count the multiplicity of the blessings we have in the midst of whatever gloom and doom surrounds us...oh, yeah, when Paul wrote this letter, he was in jail for being a Christian and Nero would cut off his head.



“...OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN
HEAVEN AND WE EAGERLY
AWAIT A SAVIOR FROM THERE,
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:20





DECEMBER 7TH - SAVE THE DATE!

Since July, a team composed of city representatives, Historical Society leaders, and church representatives have met to organize activities for the Harrodsburg Christmas/holiday celebration December 6-7. Though there are many activities available over the two days, the one we at UPC are most excited about is the Stained-Glass Window Tour. On December 7 from 1-4:30 PM, four churches in Harrodsburg who have stained-glass windows will host visitors who wish to see the windows and the churches decorated for the season. The four churches will provide hosts to welcome the guests and answer any questions that they have while quiet Christmas hymns are played on the piano or organ. Groups are moved from church to church via golf carts that will circle the route, picking up and delivering those who wish to ride. Tickets may be purchased from the Chamber of Commerce or the Historical Society for \$10 which will go to restoration projects at the Historical Society. The ticket is a brochure which details the history of the stained-glass windows in each church. We always decorate UPC sanctuary, and this year a few updates have been added in anticipation of Dec. 7. There are several opportunities for you to participate in this event: help decorate the church for Christmas on Nov. 30 at 10:00 AM; purchase poinsettias for \$15 a pot in honor of or memory of friends and relatives; volunteer to be one of the hosts for one hour.. If you have questions about this event in general, see Nancy Hill; if you have questions or want to volunteer as host for UPC, see Jackie Corbit.

YARD SALE

Thank you to all who contributed to our yard sale on August 1-2, 2024! The sale brought in more than \$2,700 for Mission and Outreach. Proceeds will go to local missions.



CLC MISSION BAGS

The stuffing of personal care bags was a "quick" success. We filled 100 bags in 10 minutes. Leona Berg delivered the bags to The Christian Life Center who was very appreciative!



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 2024

The Blessing of the Animals on October 12th was a success! Thank you to all who joined St. Philip's Episcopal Church and UPC under the Osage Orange Tree at Old Fort Harrod State Park for this fun, frisky event.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE, BUSY AT WORK FOR YOU!

In the past few months, you have probably noticed a number of changes in our building. Thanks to investments of half the money earned from the sale of the Academy, property has been able to update some much-needed parts of the building and make repairs to others. Driving onto the parking lot, you will immediately notice there are no longer holes in the back part of the lot. BJ's Paving out of Salvisa did the work, and also added a drain outside fellowship hall door that was subject to flooding when the wind and rain took a particular direction. No more mopping up rainwater! The Patch Boys of Lexington repaired a number of deteriorating areas in fellowship hall and the stairwell ceiling in back. This led to a need to paint in fellowship hall and a referral from Gary Farthing gave us our painter who got to the job faster than expected. Members of Property had to work quickly to get the walls prepared for painting. Now, fellowship hall is brighter and cleaner looking, and the paint seems to have slowed down the accumulation of water in the dehumidifier. Now, there are two areas still in need of paint – the stage and the Sunday School room across from the kitchen. There will be an announcement after the holidays for volunteers to help with this project, so get those brushes and rollers ready! The women's restroom on the main floor needed more up to date commodes that didn't sit nearly on the floor and require a great quantity of water. Those were replaced by Commonwealth Plumbing. There are two major projects left to do before the end of the year: cleaning carpet in the sanctuary and fellowship hall as well as a couple of other rooms upstairs, and painting the doors, stage, and window sills of the stained glass in the sanctuary. There is a need for more in-depth cleaning of our building than the custodial staff can provide with limited hours. You are invited and encouraged to come on Nov. 9 for a Cleaning Day. We will begin around 10 AM and should be done by noon if there are lots of volunteers. No experience is necessary! All that's needed is willingness to work to make our house of worship the best it can be. Supplies will be furnished. See Gordon Woodard or David Lynn if you have questions.

Property Committee: Gordon Woodard and David Lynn, Co-chairs
Beverly Woodard, Butch Woodard, Ron & Jackie Corbit (members)

HERITAGE SUNDAY

Oct 20 was heritage Sunday and the traditional barbecue pork lunch. Butch Woodard, son-in-law Casey Rucker and Emma Rucker cooked the meat which was delicious. The congregation brought potluck dishes.



HERITAGE SUNDAY, CONT'D



The James Harrod Trust restored and repaired tomb boxes of the Rose family at Memorial Acre.

KATE RIKER CIRCLE PROMOTES MISSIONS AT CHRISTMAS

Once again this year, the Kate Riker Circle will have the mitten tree in the back of the sanctuary. We ask for your help in donations of gloves, scarves, mittens, hats and socks to be placed on the tree. These articles will be given to the Christian Life Center after the holiday for the less fortunate in Mercer County as winter will soon be here!

Also, we will be sponsoring a family from the Angel Tree at the Harrodsburg Herald. More information about this opportunity will be available after the November 7th Circle meeting. Our congregation has always been so generous to help the circle make a family's Christmas wishes come true.

Thank-you for showing the love of Christ to this community with your participation in these projects.

Laura Devine, moderator

REPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation/Curry Fund has been fairly active this summer/fall.

June, the foundation approved and funded \$5600 for the replacement of one air conditioner unit for the Sanctuary.

August, \$500 was sent to the Christian Life Center, specifically for food to be distributed locally. Also, \$500 was sent to the Mercer County Resource Ministry which partners with Blue Grass Community Action to help those in need help to pay rent or utility bills.

October, \$1000 was sent to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Helene relief.

Both of the Curry and Foundation Funds are designated to fund needs for the church and committees as well as philanthropy. If you have suggestions on more ways these funds can be used, please let one of the Foundation members or committee chairs know.

Thank you,

Helen Dedman
Nancy Hill

Jack Prewitt
Gwen Wickliffe

Ron Corbit
Margaret Woodard

Sherri Prigmore



CHRISTMAS POEM

If every day were like Christmas, what a joy that would be!

Full of love and compassion, just goodness from sea to sea.

No hateful words spoken, no lies or regrets,

No envy, no despair; love for our fellow man,

Christ's story on earth to share.

There would be no more homeless people living on the streets,

Because taking care of each other would make our lives complete.

Each day is a gift sent from the Lord above,

Use it as you wish, but fill it with love.

Share the wonderful story of Jesus' love for you and me.

Share that love each day, all the year through

May the blessings and love of our Lord be shared with each of you.

Laura Devine, October 2024

FINANCIAL UPDATE

August

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Income: | \$ 6,004.57 |
| Expenses: | \$ 6,468.98 |
| Needed to meet budget: | \$ 6,672.00 |
| | <u>\$ 6,004.00</u> |
| | \$ 668.00 received over budget needs |

Balance in General Budget: \$ 14,961.21

September

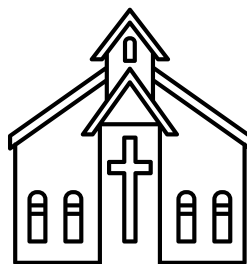
| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Income: | \$ 6,972.23 |
| Expenses: | \$ 4,926.88 |
| Needed to meet budget (5 week month) | \$ 8,340.00 |
| | <u>\$ 6.97</u> |
| | \$ 1,368.00 received under budget needs |

Balance in General Budget: \$ 16,542.15

You have been such a faithful congregation, and as a result, we have remained in the black for the entire year. This next year will bring a greater challenge because so many services are more costly than they have been. Stewardship and Finance will meet to discuss the budget on Nov. 10 following church; Session will be voting on the 2025 budget in the November 20 meeting; once that happens, you will be sent the information. Please pray about your giving this next year.

Jack Prewitt, co-chair of Stewardship and Finance

Gary Farthing, Doug Ferguson, David Lynn (co-chair), Pat Alexander, Jackie Corbit (members of committee)



DATES TO REMEMBER NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2024

- Nov. 4: Kate Riker Circle, 10:30am
Nov. 6: Men's lunch, 12:00pm at Granny's
Nov. 9: Cleaning Day for UPC; everyone is needed to do a more in-depth cleaning of the building: 10:00am - 12:00pm
Nov. 10: Communion & Baptism
Nov. 10-24: Poinsettia orders taken
Nov. 17: Kima Pachuaui, supply preacher
Nov. 20: Stated Session meeting, 12:30pm
Nov. 24: Hunger Offering
Nov. 30: Decorate the church for Christmas, 10:00am; all are invited!
Dec. 1: First Sunday of Advent (HOPE)
Dec. 2: Kate Riker Circle, 10:30am
Dec. 4: Men's lunch, 12:00pm
Dec. 7: Stained-Glass Window Tour, 1:00pm - 4:30pm
Dec. 8: Second Sunday of Advent (PEACE)
Dec. 15: Third Sunday of Advent (JOY); Communion
Corbit Open House, 12:30pm - 3:00pm
Dec. 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent (LOVE); Hunger Offering
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service at 6:00pm; Joy Offering taken
Jan. 4: Take down all Christmas decorations, 10:00am



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10/11- Ron Corbit | 10/1- Lou Noel & Jack Prewitt |
| 10/15- Martha Brackett | 11/10- George & Carol Noe |
| 10/25- Pat Rockas | 11/18- Gordon & Beverly Woodard |
| 10/26- Jan Woodard | 12/26- Doug & Leslie Ferguson |
| 10/31- Joyce Sanders | 12/28- Mike & Pat Rockas |
| 11/15- Jackie Lindberg | |
| 11/15- Leona Berg | |
| 11/19- Carol Noe | |
| 11/27- Alex Prigmore | |
| 11/28- Lauren Ferguson | |
| 12/13- Margaret Woodard | |
| 12/16- Jane Gilbert | |
| 12/26- Dick Howe | |