

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# GOOD NEWS!

Spring 2023

## SINGING HIS PRAISES

Rev. John White

**When an all-star baseball player stepped up to the plate with the bases loaded and hit a grand slam out of the park, the crowd filled the air with a deafening roar. When a world-renowned tenor delivered a stellar performance at the Metropolitan Opera, the audience gave him seven rousing curtain calls. When a bright-eyed twelve-month old took her first steps, her loved ones simultaneously erupted in delighted cheers of praise. Surely, there are times when we, likewise, may feel so-inclined to heap praises on others when praises are due.**

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## SINGING HIS PRAISES, CONTINUED

God Himself is delighted to garner praises from all His creation. Consider Luke chapter 2, when the shepherds learn of the Messiah's birth and how suddenly there appeared *"a multitude of the heavenly host praising God."* In Revelation 5, there is an even more spectacular scene in which the heavenly host praises the risen Christ, *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"* If angels are in the business of praising God and if, indeed, all the living in the heavenly realm are about the business of praising God, what about you and I here on earth?

In Hebrews 13:15, we are given the exhortation, *"Through Jesus...let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of lips praising His name."* I would suggest that our praising God is just as important a spiritual discipline as is our reading the Bible, spending time in prayer, reaching out to others, and attending worship. Certainly, we offer up praises to God on Sunday mornings, singing out to Him how awesome are His works, how wonderful is His character, and how bountiful are His blessings. Yet, we are encouraged to praise God CONTINUALLY, often, in our own times of prayer, even during the course of our daily lives when we may be out-and-about, doing this-or-that.

In Psalms 22:3, David proclaimed that God is *"enthroned on the praises of Israel."* The KJV translates that God *"inhabits the praises of Israel."* When we praise God, even when we may not feel like it, we stand to kindle His presence, to welcome Him into our atmosphere. He is faithful to draw near to those who draw near to Him. How encouraging it is to hear the testimonies of folks - even Presbyterians! - who experience the soul-filling sensation of God being very present, very directly engaged with us when we genuinely cheer Him and applaud Him and praise Him from whom all blessings flow. Let's take the time and develop the business of praising our awesome God to whom our praises are due.

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# EASTER BREAKFAST

**Lots of people - lots of food - good fellowship -- another beautiful flower cross!! Many thanks to all the people who made it all possible - so many people did just lots of different things to make it all possible. Special thanks to Carole and Erin Noe for the decorations - Marilyn Allen for all the phone calls - to all the people who brought food -- to the Prigmores and others who decorated the flower cross -- to Beverly Woodard and all the others who helped with the set up and clean up. We are blessed to have such a giving congregation!!!**

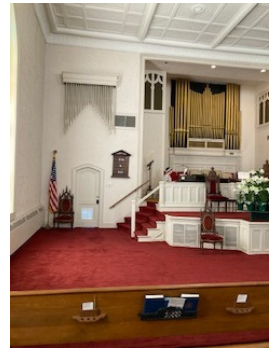
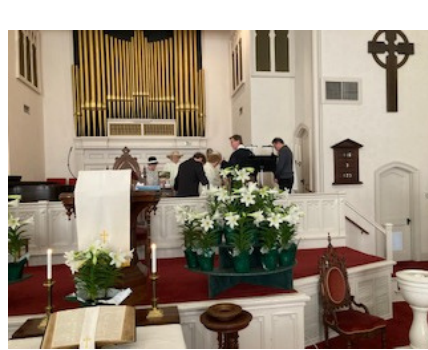
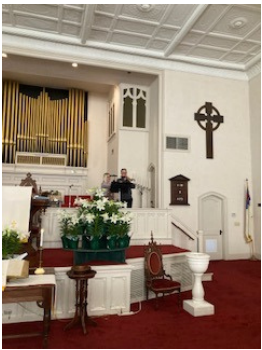


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## DECORATING THE CROSS



## EASTER SERVICE



## PALM SUNDAY



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## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

UPC is blessed with consistent givers who week-by-week give to keep God's work through this church relevant and active in Harrodsburg. You provide the funds that pay the bills and staff and allow us to keep the building in repair. It's important that you know how we are doing on a weekly basis in order to stay informed. We have begun posting the weekly offering total in the bulletin. Also posted is the amount needed to meet budget requirements each week. That number is about \$1576. Please look at the past months' giving totals so that you know how we stand financially. Thank-you for being so consistent in your giving. If you have questions, contact Jackie Corbit, chair of stewardship and finance.

January 1 = 2354	Needed weekly 1576 X 5 = 7880
January 8 = 915	<u>- 6086</u>
January 15 = 1083	Under budget \$ 794
January 22 = 543	
<u>January 29 = 1191</u>	
\$ 6086	

February 5 = 2065	Needed weekly 1576 X 4 = 6304
February 12 = 1239	<u>- 4537</u>
February 19 = 602	Under budget \$ 1767
<u>February 26 = 631</u>	
\$ 4537	

March 5 = 2033	Needed weekly 1700 X 4 = 6304
March 12 = 1823	<u>- 4071</u>
March 19 = 1187	Under budget \$ 1233
<u>March 26 = 1079</u>	
\$ 4071	



FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS,  
THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO.

MATTHEW 6:21



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# A NEW YEAR FOR KATE RIKER CIRCLE

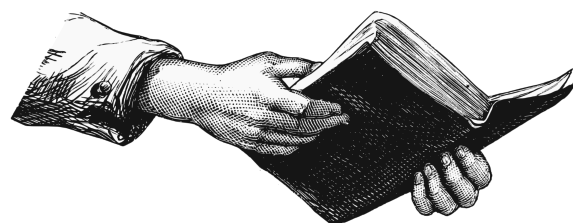
Laura Devine

The first meeting of the Kate Riker Circle will be April 10th at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Our study year goes from April to December. The purpose of the Presbyterian Women's Circle is to support the church mission worldwide, work for justice and peace, help to build a caring community and give witness to the promise of God's kingdom. We strive to nurture our faith through Bible study and prayer.

This year, our study will be on the Sabbath. It was written by Carol M. Bechtel who is a professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. Our first lesson is "Sabbath and Celebration" with scriptures from Matthew 11 and 12. Rev. Bechtel states, "Sabbath is not a burden; it is a blessing, a celebration that may reform and redirect all our ways of living."

Following our Bible study, we have a business meeting where we look for ways to help our community. Several of our regular causes are the Christian Life Center, Mercer Transformation, and local schools through the Backpack Program. At Christmas, along with our wonderful congregation, we sponsor a family for Christmas from the Herald's Angel Tree. Our mitten tree provides hats, scarves, gloves and socks for people in our community during the cold months. From all this, it is evident that our Kate Riker Circle is very active in promoting missions within our community. If you are available, you are invited to join us for each first Monday of the month; the Bible study will be challenging and the fellowship with fellow Christians will inspire you in your own Christian journey.

Laura Devine, Moderator



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# A POTLUCK PICNIC AT MARY BAXTER'S FARM

Pat Rockas, Hospitality Committee

**We'll have it Saturday, June 3rd at 1pm. We'll take out two tables from the church for the food. We encourage each person to bring his/her chair. Our theme is "A Family Favorite Dish." We can take turns explaining the dish we brought but also bring a copy of the recipe and history. We plan to compile a booklet of the recipes so each person can have a copy. Rain will move the event to the basement of the church – we, Kentuckians, know about possible weather change!!**

## SNACKS BETWEEN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH

Pat Rockas

**We need volunteers for snacks. Remember it need not be complicated. Harold Davis started the tradition by bringing a bag of donut holes – that led many to refer to the conference room as the donut room!! You may talk with Beverly Woodard or simply sign up on the legal pad on the small telephone table as you first walk into the donut room/conference room.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 22nd – Church Women United (Perryville CC), 9am**

**May 14th – Mother's Day (COMMUNION)**

**June 3rd – Potluck Picnic @ Mary Baxter's Farm, 1pm**

**June 18th – Father's Day (COMMUNION)**



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING,

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17



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# ACTIONS TAKEN BY SESSION

Jackie Corbit, Clerk of the Session

## STATED SESSION MEETING, JANUARY

1. **Motion to give Mimi Becker of Danville/Boyle County Arts Council unusable candles used for Christmas Eve services over the years passed.**
2. **Approved Jeff Shaver as pulpit supply Feb. 26.**
3. **Motion made to complete landscaping in front of church and purchase a memorial plaque in honor of Tim Prigmore and Gertrude Reed passed. This work will take place once the weather is conducive; a special service of dedication will be planned in honor of Tim and Gertrude who both had such a strong influence on flowers/landscaping for enhancement for UPC.**

## STATED SESSION MEETING, FEBRUARY

1. **Gary Farthing was reinstated to Active congregational roll.**
2. **Motion made and passed to request \$1,000 from Foundation's Curry Fund for Presbytery Disaster Relief in support of the earthquake victims in Egypt and Syria. Foundation approved this request and money was sent.**
3. **Philip Lotspeich was approved as pulpit supply for May 14.**
4. **Motion made and passed to designate \$500 for the memorial plaque and remaining landscaping in front of church.**

## STATED SESSION MEETING, MARCH

1. **Approved DAR use of Fellowship Hall the first Wednesday of each month in 2023.**
  2. **Motion and approval of Barry Arnold letter of transfer from Perryville Presbyterian. We will speak with Lou Noel at next Session meeting in preparation for her joining UPC fellowship. The Sunday service where these two will be joining our church family is tentatively scheduled for April 23.**
  3. **Motion and approval of two congregational events: Easter breakfast; picnic at Mary Baxter's farm June 3.**
  4. **Approved memorial donations (in honor of someone who has died and requested donation to UPC) be deposited in the General Budget unless they are designated for a specific fund.**
  5. **Approved making up a little over \$500 to Presbytery for per capita 2022 due to a mistake on our part in figuring what our per capita should be.**
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# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



## APRIL

**5th - Helen Dedman**

**11th - Gordon Woodard**

**14th - Doug Ferguson**

**23rd - Lisa Gilbert**

**28th - George Noe**

**30th - Harry (Butch) Woodard**

**5th - Chuck & Helen Dedman**

## MAY

**3rd - Vanna Prigmore**

**4th - Sherri Howe Prigmore**

**12th - Beverly Woodard**

**28th - Trudy Sutherland**

**31st - Jamie Woodard Rucker**

**12th - Dick & Shirley Howe**

## JUNE

**10th - Gwen Wickliffe**

**19th - Sue Sullivan**

**26th - Irene Mitchell**

**27th - Lyzzi Prigmore**

**16th - Frank & Irene Mitchell**

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