

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# GOOD NEWS!

Winter 2023

## THY WILL BE DONE

Rev. John White

I'd be super rich if I had a dollar for every self-assessing Christian who intimated to me that they seldom pray for themselves, but rather they pray for the needs of others. They say putting "the other" before "the self" is what is most important. When I then press them on what their prayers sound like when they are sick or when they have needs, the response is often, "When I've got problems, I trust the Lord and I pray 'Thy will be done.'"

Consider the words of Jesus from Matthew 6:8, "...*Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.*" Three verses later in "The Lord's Prayer" which Jesus commands us to pray, we are to say, "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" If God knows what we need before we ask for it, why should we then pray FOR OURSELVES? Are there not more pressing needs in the world than our own food? What about food for those who are starving? What about the safety of those in war-torn countries? What about the health and well-being for our loved ones and any others in our spheres of influence? Yet, Jesus commands us to pray for ourselves, for there to be food on our tables, no less. That's God's will!

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## THY WILL BE DONE, CONTINUED

**As our divine PARENT, God desires that we are to have an intimate, personal relationship with Him. The nature of our rapport is intended to be dialogical in character, speaking to God, listening for God. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Paul wrote, “*pray without ceasing.*” Among our “Please help so-and-so”s should also be our “Please help me, too”s! (That said, if we’re to pray for our food, then it’s equally fair game to pray for our own health, for our own peace, and for our own happiness at the same time that we are rightly inclined to pray for others.) In the hymn, “What A Friend We Have in Jesus,” we sing, “O, what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pains we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.” Amen! Lifting up prayers for ourselves is nothing less than good stewardship.**



“PRAY, THEN, IN THIS WAY:  
‘OUR FATHER, WHO IS IN HEAVEN,  
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.  
YOUR KINGDOM COME.  
YOUR WILL BE DONE,  
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.  
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.  
AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE ALSO  
HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.  
AND DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION,  
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.’

MATTHEW 6:9-13



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# NIGHT OF THE GREAT PUMPKIN

Many thanks to all who took part in the Night of the Great Pumpkin on October 29th! We appreciate all who donated candy and/or volunteered their time, and all who stopped by during the event. We had a great turnout and were able to give out nearly all of our candy!



# CORBIT OPEN HOUSE

Thank you to Ron and Jackie Corbit for hosting another wonderful Christmas Open House! We appreciate all you do!



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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. As we draw closer to year's end, stewardship and finance must evaluate last year's budget in order to prepare for the next year's needs. You are a vital part of this process. 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 \$1700. Please look at the past three 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.

October 2 = 1335	Needed weekly 1700 X 5 = 8500
October 9 = 1787	- 5589
October 16 = 1071	<hr/>
October 23 = 586	Under budget \$ 2911
October 30 = 810	
<hr/>	
\$ 5589	
November 6 = 2182.10	Needed weekly 1700 X 4 = 6800
November 13 = 807	- 4604
November 20 = 974	<hr/>
November 27 = 642	Under budget \$ 2877
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\$ 4604.10	
December 4 = 1916	Needed weekly 1700 X 4 = 6800
December 11 = 1375	- 4817
December 18 = 697	<hr/>
December 25 = 829	Under budget \$ 1983
<hr/>	
\$ 4817	



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

MATTHEW 6:21



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# KATE RIKER CIRCLE

Laura Devine

The Kate Riker Circle had its last meeting of 2022 on December 5. Our study this year was entitled **What Our Grandmother's Taught Us**, and it was a good study of women in the Bible.

We wish to thank our wonderful congregation for the donations of money, toys, and items you gave this year to help with our sponsoring of four children from the Herald's Love Tree. We raised over \$400 which made it possible for us to include a small gift card for the grandmother of the children we sponsored. Kate Riker was also able to donate \$75 to the two backpack programs and the Christian Life Center out of donations from the women who attend the circle each month.

I wish to thank the members of the circle for being faithful in attendance each meeting and for donations and other actions they made for our church. In 2023 Kate Riker will begin meeting again on the first Monday in April. Our study centers on the sabbath, All are invited to join us for the Bible study and fellowship!

Merry Christmas to all of you!

Laura Devine

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 1st - New Years Day**

**January 14th - Stated Session Working Meeting, 10am**

**January 15th - New Elder Ordination/Installation**

**February 14th - Valentine's Day**

**February - Annual Meeting of the Congregation, immediately following worship**

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# WORSHIP SUGGESTIONS

Pat Rockas

John has been encouraging us to have a time each day for a devotion and prayer. One easy way is on the UPC webpage. When the webpage is open, click on “Publications” – scroll down to “Online Devotional” – you will find a different devotional each day.

My personal favorite is William Barclay (Scottish theologian, New Testament) – our church library has a selection of his books. In the New Year, we will have them together on a reachable shelf. Barclay has a scripture selection and his thoughts on meaning.

## CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE UKRAINE

Pat Rockas

Although the sunflowers were removed to make way for Christmas decorations, please let us continue to pray for Ukraine. Ukraine is a large producer of sunflower oil – very popular as an alternative to lard or butter which are prohibited by the Orthodox church during Lent. So the flower is found all over the country and has become a symbol of peace – in fact, the blue of their flag is for the sky and the yellow below for sunflowers. To understand more of the relationship between the Ukraine and Russia, learn about the Holodomor.



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING,

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17



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# SESSION ACTIONS

Jackie Corbit, Clerk of the Session

## STATED SESSION MEETING, OCT. 19

- 1. Session approved contacting the list of 11 potential members to move to inactive.**
- 2. Session approved the bid by Jacob's Ladder to replace both the sanctuary and education complex roofs for up to \$55,000.**
- 3. Session approved a donation of \$500 to Bluegrass Community Action from mission/outreach budget to be designated to aid Mercer County residents who fulfill the requirements for help with utilities.**
- 4. Session approved communion at Christmas Eve service and the cancelling of Sunday services on Dec. 25.**

## CALLED SESSION MEETING, OCT, 23

**Session approved the Proposed Budget for 2023**

## CALLED CONGREGATION MEETING, OCT. 30

- 1. Nominating committee moved that Helen Dedman and Trudy Sutherland be elected for class of 2026 of Foundation. Motion passed.**
- 2. Nominating committee moved that Gordon Woodard and Jack Prewitt be elected to the class of 2025 of Session. Motion passed.**

## STATED SESSION MEETING, NOV. 16

- 1. Motion passed to move 10 members to Inactive status. All had been contacted either by phone or letter.**
  - 2. Motion passed to allow liturgists to determine if they would read liturgy from pulpit or choir loft. This was to accommodate those who sing in choir and allow them to avoid walking to and from pulpit repeatedly.**
  - 3. After viewing the balance of the general budget (\$2,722.37) and discussing the obligations still to fulfill through December, motion passed to move funds from Memorial Trust (\$8,019.30) and Miscellaneous (\$8,759.97) to the general budget to meet these obligations.**
  - 4. Due to changes in secretary's position, motion passed to pay current secretary, working remotely 10-12 hours a month, \$16 per hour beginning in October 2022.**
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# BUDGET 2023

## HOSPITALITY

Kitchen supplies	100
<u>Congregational events (4 per year)</u>	<u>400</u>
	500

## MISSION & OUTREACH

Backpack Program	250
Christian Life	250
<u>Unknowns</u>	<u>1000</u>
	1500

## PASTOR

### *\*Minimum Requirements by Presbytery*

Salary: 20 hours	6046
Housing	15600
Pension, death disability, health ins.	13664
<u>Social security allowance (.0765 x base salary 21,646)</u>	<u>1656</u>
	36966

## PERSONNEL

Custodian (4 hrs. week = 208 yr. x \$13)	2704
Employee Social Security	1156
Secretary (8-10 hrs. month =120 year x 16)	920
Organist	5200
 Christmas Gifts:	
Pastor	N/A
Secretary	150
Treasurer	N/A
Custodian	150
Organist	150
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>11430</u>

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# BUDGET 2023, CONT'D

## PROPERTY

<b>Equipment Repairs and Maintenance</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>7000</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>1600</b>
<b>Termite</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Gas</b>	<b>4100</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>650</b>
<b>Electric</b>	<b>8000</b>
	<hr/>
	<b>23750</b>

## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

<b>Church Office Material</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Clerk of Session</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>2500</b>
<b>Per Capita Apportionment (57 x \$39.10)</b>	<b>2229</b>
<b>Postage/Newsletter</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Treasurer Expense</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>CDM+ program</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Misc.</b>	<b>50</b>
	<hr/>
	<b>6329</b>

## WORSHIP

<b>Guest Minister</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>Sanctuary Upkeep</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Worship Supplies</b>	<b>100</b>
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	<b>1500</b>

**TOTAL** **81,975**

**NEEDED PER WEEK** **1,576**

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# BUDGET 2023, CONT'D: RESTRICTED FUNDS

Jan Hylen  
Music  
Memorial Trust  
\*Hunger Offering  
\*Flower Fund

***\*(Hunger Offering and Flower are fluid funds and this account is the easier way for Pat to handle them.)***

Notes:

- *Gertrude Reed has been transferred to Academy fund for use in landscaping per Myra Pruitt.*
- *Miscellaneous will be transferred to general budget. Bereavement will be added to Memorial Trust; we can draw from this fund once a year if needed.*
- *Investment with TDAmeritrade is currently valued at \$63674 on 9/9/22.*

### **Possible ways to augment general budget by priority:**

<b>1. Miscellaneous</b>	<b>8500</b>
<b>2. Memorial Trust</b>	<b>9000 (this would include the bereavement balance)</b>
<b>3. <u>Foundation</u></b>	<b><u>15000 (from proceeds and not principal)</u></b>
	<b>32500</b>

If our giving continues in same pattern for the remainder of 2022, we will end about 23000 short of the 2022 budget.

Major property issues remaining: roof, exterior painting, hole in parking lot, lighting fixtures that need to be changed to LED, and possibly air conditioning which may be one cause of excessive electricity bill.

### **After talking to KU, several points to consider:**

- 1. We are on a payment plan with about the same amount due each month; quarterly, KU evaluates what we have paid versus usage to determine if we need to pay more so that we don't end the year with a huge payment to make up for months when we used more than we paid for.**
  - 2. Currently, our monthly plan is \$599; we have already paid \$5653 through Aug. this year; with 4 months remaining at \$599, we will end with a total 5653 plus 2396 for a yearly cost of \$8049. Based on these numbers, I've budgeted \$8,000 for 2023.**
  - 3. KU does not have a program that provides someone to come and evaluate your electrical usage in order to try to find ways to save. The person I spoke to did say that inefficient air conditioning can be a factor in high costs.**
  - 4. KU does give rebates for modifications on the building that qualify as energy savers. This does not include maintenance issues such as a new roof. Rewiring for LED lighting does qualify, but it is a about \$3 per light which is not a great savings.**
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# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



## JANUARY

**4th - Mary Baxter**  
**15th - Tom Howells**  
**17th - Mike Rockas**

## FEBRUARY

**1st - Jackie Corbit**  
**5th - Kay Howells**  
**10th - Frank Mitchell**  
**17th - Letha Berry**  
**20th - Ann Howells**  
**23rd - Bill Wickliffe**

## MARCH

**8th - Leslie Ferguson**  
**8th - Morgan Turner**  
**21st - Jane Adrian**  
**26th - Jack Prewitt**  
**30th - Chase Taylor Haven**  
**31st - Elaine Dedman**

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