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# Making a Difference

Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter **December 2025** 

Have you ever had an experience of transcendence? Of feeling somehow transported from the reality of your current space and time?

Maybe you've felt it walking through the woods or digging in your garden. Perhaps you've had a taste of it while seeing a play, listening to an incredible piece of music, or eating an unbelievable meal. For just a moment, no matter the stress or worry around you, you feel transported.

I wonder if the *idea* of Christmas can feel that way for a lot of us. At Christmastime, we draw upon our nostalgia-soaked memories which sometimes paint the season as other-worldly. Memory has a fantastic ability to blur the rougher edges of Christmas – the stress of getting food ready and presents wrapped, family conflicts and conflicting traditions. Through those candlelight colored lenses, the *idea* of Christmas feels transcendent – separate, somehow, from the stress and the turmoil. Maybe that's why so many of us want to rush



through the here and now of Advent. Whether secular or religious, Christmas feels blessedly transcendent. And we love it for that.

But the irony of giving Christmas such an otherworldly glow is that, at its heart, Christmas is about God's presence here and now. The incarnation, where God took on flesh to dwell among us, does not invite us to detach from this world. Rather, it invites us to marvel in the reality that God chose solidarity with us right here - in the stress, the heartache, and the fear. More than any other day, Christmas grounds us, reminding us that even in the mess of the world, God is present.

This year for the season of Advent, we will be using a worship series titled *What Child IS This?* Using the words that William Chatterton Dix penned in 1865, we will dig into what it means to trust in a Christ born into a corrupt world and yet powerfully offering a witness of hope, peace, joy and love.

I look forward to thinking with you about how Christmas invites us to be present right where Jesus is present, among the hungry, the vulnerable, and the oppressed. Together let's root ourselves this Advent, not ignoring the pain of the world but engaging it – right where God incarnate took on flesh and came alongside us.

- Christine

# **December Birthdays**

Debi Ballard
Ben Blake
Martha Brown
Jackie Cain
Lavona Casson
Vicki Crowner
Doug Curnutte
Katherine Effinger
Wally Ellis
Mary Esch

Claire Evans
Allen Gilfert
Jim Guinn
Gaines Harrison
Anne Hickey
Eric Hilyerd
Donovan Hoert
Kevin Howard
Harry Hunt
Landon Johnson

Riley Johnson Shelley Koczot Jim Mackell Annie McCanless Veda Pendleton Lucy Rapp Janet Redford Peter Ritchie Allison Scheynost Terri Shearrow Jonathan Sutphin Rick Williams Leight Wilson Adam Witt Rhonda Woodcock Evelyn Yu Graham Zuber



# **Sunday Worship**

# Ushers: December 7th Brian Pollock\* Molly Pollock Nancy Pollock Pollock Family

December 14th Kelly Burke\* Joni Burke Jane Thomas Leight Wilson

December 21st Sara Sutphin\* Pam Bliven Bill Bliven Sarah Bumpas

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Jim Rissler\* Nancy Rissler Meg Buckner Steve Buckner

December 28th Bob Smith\* Kathy Williams Ann Burge Lynn Cole

\* Head Usher

#### Lay Readers:

**December 7** Lynn Cole

**December 14**Brad Zuber

**December 21** Youth

**December 28**Kathy Williams

# **HB Prayer List**

Brad Wigger on the death of his father Jim; Sophie Esterle; Bettye-Ruth Hill; Morgan Hampton, granddaughter of Beverly Hampton; Tom Hughes; JoAnna Overstreet; Greta Marcum; Joyce Ibendahl, sister of Mary Hatcher; Judy Laning; Karen Gordon; Janet Redford; Steve Schulte; Kathy Eagan, friend of Laura Carter; Maggie Doehnert, Sister-inlaw of Dave Doehnert; Rob Klouw, husband of former HB Staff Katherine Randall; Peggy & Woody Mull; Stephanie Melton, niece of Jim & Nancy Rissler; John Buchanan; Bobbie Hutchison, niece of Mary Esch; Marsha Howard. mother of Renata DeWees; Mery, mother of Javier Rodriguez; Judi Jones, wife of Bob Brown; Barb and Tom Benkert, relatives of Lynn Cole; LaToshia Woods, friend of Veda Pendleton; Lois & Peter Laning, Sister-in-law & brother of Judy Laning; Donna Jones; Diana, daughter of Skip & Edith Light

# **Advent Schedule**

#### November 30 — First Sunday of Advent

10:30am Worship

11:30am Advent Kickoff Luncheon in Foyer

#### **December 7** — **Second Sunday of Advent**

10:30am Worship

3:00pm Louisville Winds Concert

#### **December 14— Third Sunday of Advent**

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Christmas Pageant

December 18—Longest Night

6:30pm in Foyer

#### **December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10:30am Worship led by Chancel Choir

#### **December 24—Christmas Eve Service**

6:00pm Christmas Eve Service

#### **December 28—First Sunday of Christmas**

No Sunday School or breakfast

10:30am Worship — Wear Your Christmas Sweater!

# Hope in the Dark: A Night of Comfort & Connection

Join us December 18 from 6:00—8:00 for an evening of food, fellowship, and experiential worship as together we acknowledge the weariness we carry in the midst of an often overwhelming season. Light refreshments will be offered in the foyer before a brief, reflective worship service. Following the service, participants will be invited to engage in a variety of spiritual practices and continued fellowship. Together, let us help find hope in the dark!

# **Christmas Pageant**

# **Christmas Eve Worship**

The nativity story as told by the children of our congregation will be at 4:00pm on Sunday, December 14 in the Sanctuary with a cookie and hot chocolate reception to follow. Plus, a little holiday cheer from the youth group! All are welcome to attend!

Join us for a Christmas Eve Worship Service at Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, December 24, at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. Come celebrate the joy and hope of Christ's birth with us in a beautiful and meaningful service. All are welcome!

#### **Outreach and Mission**

# **December Grocery Cart**

The Grocery Cart for December is for Cabbage Patch. The supplies they are asking for this year are laundry detergent, bar soap (dove or dove equivalent), cleaning supplies, canned meats (chicken, tuna), spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, snacks (granola bars, unpopped popcorn, etc.), soup, feminine hygiene supplies (pads, tampons, unscented), toilet paper, toothpaste and toothbrushes, baked peans, pork and beans, beef stew.

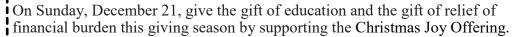


# **Special Offering**

The Christmas Joy Offering supports church workers and their families in the PC(USA) who need critical financial assistance. Your congression has the apportunity to make an impact. You can

sistance. Your congregation has the opportunity to make an impact. You can be the difference between financial hardship and a blessed breath of relief.

In addition, the Christmas Joy Offering is committed to helping promote educational opportunities and leadership development, in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Your congregation can enable these institutions to provide students with a transformative education.





### Cabbage Patch Christmas on the Move!

Shopping is completed thanks to 10 wonderful HB shoppers and Heather Drake. We sent the mom's home very happy



in anticipation of smiling children and youth in a few weeks. We are now wrapping all these gifts in room 209 mostly on Wednesdays after dinner through December 10. Come join in the merriment and joyful camaraderie. On Sundays a gift tree is in the foyer at the welcome area. Choose a child's name with gift ideas to buy for them. Wrap it and bring it back to church by December 7. Contact Anne Hughes. On Friday evening Dec.12 we will organize the gifts from 209, grocery cart items, PDO contribution and food boxes in Emory (gym). Contact Brian Pollock (502)298-5250. Then our last event is the delivery of the gifts to the family's homes or to the Cabbage Patch. We need 10 vehicles on December 14. Please contact Bob Smith (502)523-6466 to volunteer.

Harvey Browne is a very caring and compassionate community sharing time and money providing families with Christ filled love during the season of his birth. Thank you for the generous special offerings.

# **Sunday School**

# **HBUniversity**

These are trying times in our national life and those of us in mainline churches are feeling sidelined. Do the things that Presbyterians stand for, like racial equality, welcoming strangers and immigrants, and care of the earth, matter any more? How can we recover our collective voices for the public good? We might expect the Bible has something to say to our current dilemma, and indeed it does, and the word of God still speaks clearly to our day. On five Sunday mornings, Jan. 11-Feb. 8, HBUniversity will delve into Jeff Cover's book, Going *Public*. The author, a retired Presbyterian pastor, will be our teacher for a sampler of chapters from the book. Each chapter helps us recover a story from someone in the Bible called out of private life into the public life of the day—a Hebrew midwife, a beauty queen, a shepherd, a learned rabbi, an unlettered fisherman. Jeff invites you to come and be part of the lively discussion. While you're not required to purchase the book, reading it would greatly enhance your experience. Order a copy wherever you buy books, or place an order through he church office and Jeff will bring the ordered books to class when it starts. The deadline to order a book through the church office is December 15.

#### 4th-5th LIFT

Lift will meet on Sunday December 7 at 4:00pm to wrap up our fall series on the sacraments!

#### Children & Youth Classes

New curriculum: Our children will begin with a new curriculum from Dwell. Each session they will explore a Bible story and complete an activity together.

- 0-3 in Nursery
- 4's- K & 1st in Room 212 with Katie Williams
- Grades 2-3 in Room 216 with Beverly Hampton
- Grades 4-5 in Room 206 with Alison Lockhart
- Youth Class (6th—12th grade) Meet in the Loft.

\*Please initial the clipboards and ensure we have your contact information when you drop your child off at Sunday School\*

Sunday Breakfast is offered each week in Eline Hall from 9:00—9:30.

# **HBYouth Christmas Party**

We will enjoy pizza, treats, and fellowship together at our Christmas party on December 13 from 6-8:30. Church member cember 19 at 5:30pm at the Buckners' for their Sally Craxton has very kindly offered to host us! Her address is 1802 Corona Ct, Louisville, KY 40222. Youth should bring a wrapped gift (no more than \$20) for our white elephant gift exchange. Funny gifts are amazing but we try to avoid anyone getting a gift that makes them sad. Please RSVP for this event by December 10 so we have enough treats!

#### **FRIENDS Christmas Party**

The FRIENDS will be gathering on Friday, Deannual Christmas gathering. Bring a side to share and a wrapped favorite holiday book for the gift exchange! Children are welcome. RSVP to Megan Durham or Molly Pollock by December 15. (FRIENDS is primarily made up of folks of the FRIENDS tv show generation - Gen X, Millennials)

#### From We to Me

From We to Me, a support group for widows, will continue on the third Thursday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 in the Living Room. All widows are welcome to join us for fellowship, sharing and support. The next meeting is December 18th.

#### All Church

# Parent's Day Out Substitute Teacher

Parents Day Out, a ministry of our congregation for children ages 9mo - 2 years, is searching for a substitute teacher. An ideal candidate would be available on short notice and has experience working with children in this age group. For more information, reach out to Parents Day Out Director Rebecca Wilson at pdo@hbpres.net.

#### **Notes from Session**

The Session of Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church held a stated meeting on November 4, 2025. Linda Garrett led the Session in prayer after which the following business was conducted:

- Heard reports from Christine & Katherine.
- Approved the purchase of two TV monitors for the chancel so choir members can view the service.
- Approved fixing the bridge crossing from the main parking lot to the back parking lot; Owen's Medical lot, to allow cars to cross.
- The former manse for Harvey Browne Church has been leased to Willey Dental Practice for the past 55 years. Dr. David Willey is retiring in 2026. The lease reads a 12-month notice is to be given by either party to terminate the lease. Dr. Willey asked that the notice be changed to a 6-month notice. Session approved his request; he will be out of the building by April 30, 2026. A task group will determine the best use of the building.
- Approved 2026 communion dates.
- Heard reports from the committees.

- Anne Hughes, Clerk of Session

# **Wednesday Night Dinners**

Dinners will be catered by Kingsley Meats & Catering, one of Louisville's most popular catering companies. Meals are served from 5:15-6:00 pm. Meals include a salad bar, assorted desserts, and beverages that include iced tea, lemonade, water, and coffee. There is also a "children's table" with milk, chocolate syrup, bread, and peanut butter. We are asking for a suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, with a family cap at \$25. But as with last year—please do not let cost keep you from attending! We will also have the option of paying electronically.

**December 3**Assorted Pizzas
Green Salad
Assorted Desserts

December 10
Taco Bar
Ground Beef
Soft and hard shells
Assorted Desserts

**December 17**Bill Bliven's Christmas Ham

December 24 - Christmas No Dinner

December 31 - New Year No Dinner

# Presbyterian Women Christmas Coffee

Christmas is coming! And we get so very busy. But we hope you will take time to meet with friends for coffee, tea, light refreshments and conversation. Mark your calendars because The Presbyterian Women will be hosting their annual Christmas Coffee Saturday, December 6th,10:00 AM to noon in Harvey Browne's Eline Hall. All are welcome to come and share Christmas memories and plans as we gather together. We will have an opportunity to become better acquainted and share the Spirit of Christmas. We will sing carols and listen to music provided by Bill Williamson on base, and Sally Craxton on piano. All are welcome. Watch the *Good News to Go* and Highlights for more details.

#### What is Prime Time?

Prime Time started this spring and is a ministry at Harvey Browne for those in the "third-thirty" of life (sometimes referred to as senior adults). Prime Time hosts periodic events and programs, as well as one group which meet regularly - Deeper Connections. Stay up to date with all that is going on with Prime Time by subscribing to the Prime Time email. If you'd like to subscribe to this email or more information about Prime Time, call the church office.

# **Deeper Connections**

#### Prime Time at the Movies

This subgroup of Prime Time meets twice a month in the Session room to discuss the particular joys and challenges of the "third-thirty" of life. It is led by Kit Tossmann and Debbie Cover. This month, Deeper Connections will meet on Thursdays December 4 and 18 at 10:00am.

This summer many of us gathered at Masonic Homes to watch "Conclave" as part of the summer worship movie series. We are going back to Masonic Homes on December 9 at 1:00pm to watch a Christmas movie together! RSVP for this by calling the church office by Wednesday, December 3. When you RSVP, indicate whether you would like to carpool to Masonic Homes and if you would be interested in going out to lunch before the movie.

# **Harvey Browne Book Groups**

#### Bookanalia

The Bookanalia selection for December is: *Medgar & Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story that Awakened America* by Joy-Ann Reid. Veda Pendleton will lead our discussion on Dec. 17, following Weds night supper at 6pm-7pm. We will meet in the Session Room, and a Zoom link will be available. If you purchase your copy from Carmichaels remember to mention we are a registered book club to receive a discount.

Bookanalia Schedule:

**Dec. 17:** Medgar & Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story that Awakened America by Joy-Ann Reid

**Jan. 21, 2026**: *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult

**Feb. 25, 2026**: *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

March 18, 2026: *Troublesome Rising* anthology

SMALL

THINGS

LIKE

THESE

**April 15, 2026**: *Search* by Michelle Huneven

May 13, 2026: An Immense World by Ed Yong (please note: this is a week earlier)

# **Booktalk**

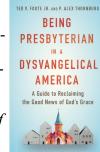
# Booktalk will meet at 11:30 on Tuesday, December 30th on Zoom and in the Living Room. We will discuss *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan. This short novel about a coal seller in Ireland who is confronted by memories of his past and a challenging decision regarding practices of the dominate church in his small town. It has become an international best seller, is listed by the NYT as one of the 100 best books of the 21st Century and an

Oprah's Book Club pick in 2024. Grab a sandwich and a drink and join us for fellowship and a lively discussion. All are welcome whether you have read the book or not.

# **Pastor's Book Group**

The Pastor's Book Group will take a break for the month of December, reconvening on January 4th at 4:00 to discuss *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical World: A Guide to Reclaiming the Good News of God's Grace* by Ted V. Foote Jr and P. Alex

Thornburg. We hope you'll pick up a copy and join us for discussion.





Sunday	Monday	Tues	day Wedn	esday Th	nursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11:00-Tai Chi (Eline) 7:00- Worship a Music Meeting' 8:15-Men's Gro (209)	k	(Eline) 1:00- Pray	vers Mtg* 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:0	0- Prime e (Session) - Wel- e Commit- Zoom)	5	6 10:00-5,000 Steps (Emory) 10:00- PW Christmas Coffee (Eline) 10:00- Rehearsal for Louisville Winds (Sancturary)
7 Sunday Schedule Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate Sale in Fo 3:00- Louisville Wir Concert (Sanctuary) 4:00-4th/5th LIFT (Emory)	yer	9 9:45-Staff M 10:30 - Grace (Session) - R (Living Rm) 11:30- Mirian (Eline) 1:00- Prime ie at Masonic 2:00- Hope ( (Living Rm) 2:00- Financ (Session) 6:30- Person mittee (Living	(Eline)  1:00- Pray 6:00- Chri Pageant R (Eline)  Time Mov- E Homes Circle Tircle E Meeting Ce Meeting Com- Wednesda	vers Mtg* istmas ehearsal bage istmas (209) mpassion (Session)		12 4:00-Cabbage Patch Sorting (Emory)	9:00-HB Men's Breakfast (Session) 9:30-Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:00-5,000 Steps (Emory) 5:00-Youth Christmas Party
14 Sunday Schedule Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate Sale in Fo 4:00-Christmas Page (Sanctuary)	yer <i>11:00</i> -Tai Chi(I	m) (Session) Eline) 1:30- Congre	egational (Eline) 1:00- Pray	vers Mtg* $1:30$ $y Night \diamondsuit$ We to ows $(Livi)$	e (Session) - From to Me Wid- Group ing Rm) -Hope in Dark	19 <b>6:00</b> – FRIENDS Christmas Party	20 10:00-5,000 Steps (Emory Hall)
21 Sunday Schedule Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate Sale in Fo		23 9:45-Staff M (Session) 7:00- Welcor mittee Meetin	Church O Building C Noon 6:00- Chri Eve Servio	ffice and and a Close at Close christmas	rch Office Building ed for stmas	26 Church Office and Building Closed for Christmas	27 <b>10:00</b> – 5,000 Steps (Emory)
28 Winter Sabbath - No Breakfast or Sunday School Sunday Schedule Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate Sale in Fo	(Eline) 8:15-Men's Gro (209)	30 9:45-Staff M (Session) 11:30-Bookta (Living Rm)	(Eline)	9:000 Steps 9:3 9:3 9:3 9:3 9:3 9:3 9:3 9:3 1:0 1:0 1:0 1:0 1:0 1:0 1:0 1:0 1:0 1:0	nday Mornin 10 - Breakfast 10 - Choir Rel 10 - Sunday S for ALL A 10 - Worship 10 - Pickle Ba 10 - Yoga at H	Night   Site   Site	
	Via Zoom/Online In person AND via Zoo		Contact the church office for links to Zoom.		00 - HBYouth	o:15 -	Adult Bible 7

# **Merry Christmas from Harvey Browne Preschool**

Christmastime at Harvey Browne Preschool is a time of joy! The children share their anticipation and excitement for the season throughout the day - their joy is palpable.

This Christmas, Harvey Browne Preschool is proud to partner for the 2nd year with Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church and support the Cabbage Patch Christmas Baskets. Our families were asked to contribute Walmart and Target gift cards to the Cabbage Patch baskets. We tied these donations to our chapel time with Reverend Katharine, our classroom themes focused on sharing God's love and the joy of giving. In October, our families donated over 330 needed food items to the St. MAM's Food Pantry. Sharing is a core value at the preschool; our children and families continue to support this community in wonderful, real-world ways.

We will welcome Stage One Storytellers to the preschool in December for an immersive storytelling experience retelling beloved winter books through drama and engagement. We love bringing enrichment opportunities to our children and this should be a fun one! Per tradition, the Kindergarten Kangaroo class will present "The First Christmas" to their families. It's a wonderful tradition at Harvey Browne Preschool.

Registration for the 26/27 school year has begun! Priority registration will end on December 18th for church members and current families. Our registration packet is available at the Welcome Center in the foyer and on our website. Please contact the preschool office if you would like to schedule a tour or have any questions. (502) 895-2577 www.harveybrownepreschool.org.

Christmas is always a time for celebration and the children of Harvey Browne Preschool give us a daily reminder of the magic that the season holds. I wish each of you a Christmas filled with joy and wonder. Amy Squires, Director

#### Pastor and Staff Contact Information

**Rev. Christine Coy Fohr**, Paston

**Rev. Katherine Kupar**, Associate Pastor

Rev. Jim Hubert, Co-coordinator of Pastoral Care

**Kristy Hubert,** Co-coordinator of Pastoral Care

**Renata DeWees,** Director of Youth Ministries

Larry D. Brandenburg, Minister of Music

Chris Harbeson-Borgelt, Interim Organist

Beth Brandenburg, Director Children's Choir

Carl Enoch, Sign Language Interpreter

**Amy Squires**, Preschool Director

**Becca Wilson**, Parents' Day Out Director

Tessy Farrell, Nursery Coordinator

**Cheryl Granger**, Church Administrator

**Tim Miller**, Building Manager

Grace Graves, Admin. Assistant

James Logan, Asst. Building Manager

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Ext. 100, <u>gracegraves@hbpres.net</u>

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Church Office Phone: (502) 896-1791 After-hours pastoral emergency number: (502) 208-8472 Harvey Browne Weekday Preschool: (502) 895-2577