

Making a Difference

Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter
January 2026

Wow! What an energetic and full holiday season we have had, especially here in the life of Harvey Browne. As we moved through Advent and Christmas, I found myself overflowing with gratitude: gratitude for the rituals we share as a community of faith, and gratitude for all the people who work so hard to create meaningful experiences as we celebrate the incarnation of our loving God!

As I've reflected on why this season felt so rich and grounding, even amid the busyness, I keep coming back to the power of ritual. Rituals feel important not just for marking time, but also to help us make meaning of life, highlighting what we value and rooting us in goodness and grace when it's so easy to be pulled in a thousand different directions.

Casper ter Kuile, author of *The Power of Ritual*, likes to use the shorthand that a ritual is "a way of making invisible things visible."

You could say that about our sacraments: baptism and communion. We often say baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace. It's a visible ritual for celebrating God's grace - grace that is given to us; we don't earn it. And the Lord's Supper is a visible sign of our communion with Jesus - a privilege offered to us because God loves us and wants to be in relationship with us.

We consider these rituals sacraments because they're things Jesus did. They are an embodied way to tell the stories of our faith. We engage in these rituals, in part, to do exactly what ter Kuile is saying - make the invisible, visible.

Ter Kuile also reminds us that rituals change us. "They do so by interrupting us," he writes, interrupting our drive toward constant productivity or the monotony of ordinary days. Quoting West African writer Malidoma Patrice Somé, he notes that rituals can even be dangerous because they carry risk: practicing them has the power to transform us.

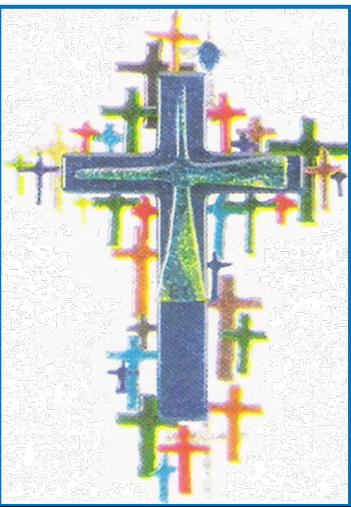
Each year as we light Advent candles, I'm grateful for the ritual of light bringing. At a time when the world is literally darker, with shorter days and cloudier skies, and metaphorically darker, with all that is going on in the world, a ritual to remind us that there is light, and not just any light, but THE light, Jesus Christ, is deeply grounding.

I hope you have felt some of that transformative power this holiday season as we've engaged together, and individually, in various rituals.

As we are faced with a brand new year, what rituals might you take part in, in the life of church community or beyond, that might interrupt life (in a good way) and have the power to transform? How might invisible things like gratitude, hope, and awe be made visible through ritual in your life?

As we move into a new year, may we allow God's love, made visible through these sacred practices, to interrupt us, ground us, and quietly transform us.

New Year blessings,
Katherine



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January Birthdays

Lois Allen	Kathy Doelling	Ruby Grogg	Hudson Lockhart	Clay Simpson
Richard Ballard	Myra Earley	Garrett Hoert	Suzie McElroy	Sara Sutphin
Curt Barrett	Lena Ewing	Jamie Holt	Michelle Niehaus	John Trinkle
Jim Boswell	Will Farrell	Jim Hughes	Tom Osborne	Christopher Ward
Rex Brandenburg	Hudson Frentz	Jean Hughes	Bill Percival	Chris Welch
Betsy Brill	Jim Frentz	Tom Hughes	Aaron Price	Matthew Whitehouse
Alex Bumpas	William Frentz	Alice Judy	Nancy Rissler	Donna Whitlock
Frances Bumpas	Elisabeth Gilfert	William Judy	Mike Rodgers	William Widmayer
Adam Casson	Justin Gilfert	Marla Kay Kosnik	Goldie Rodriguez	Margaret Wilson
Carol Christell	Karen Gordon	Everett Lewis	Julie Rousseau	Ramona Woodcock
Lance Christell	Sarah Grant	James Lewis	Linda Schoolcraft	Ellen Zuber
Lynn Cole	Ruth Green	Marcia Lewis	Matthew Sedgwick	Owen Zuber
Charlotte Craxton	Mary Grogg	Bruce Lindsey	Jay Shearrow	

Sunday Worship

Ushers:

January 4

Peggy Campbell*
Bob Brown
Marisue Coy
Jane Doehnert

January 11

George Creznic*
Sandy Creznic
Mary Esch
Becky Evans

January 18

Tom Frentz*
Sue Garrett
India Hoddy
Jeanne Luhr

*** Head Usher**

January 25

Anne Hughes*
Diane Osborne
Tom Osborne
Dee Pregiasco

Lay Readers:

January 4

Judy Stubbs

January 11

Angie Schulte

January 18

Paul Kepler

January 25

Kitty Boswell

HB Prayer List

Earl Duff and Margaret Lindsey and family on the death of Marybelle Duff; Brad, son of Pam Greenwell; Jen McClain, daughter of Veda Pendleton; Beverly Hampton; Marilee Phillips; John Paul Austin, brother-in-law of Judy Laning; Janet & John Winfrey, sister & brother-in-law of Mark Wood; Emily Brown; Greta Marcum; Bettye-Ruth Hill; Morgan Hampton, granddaughter of Beverly Hampton; Bettye-Ruth Hill; JoAnna Overstreet; Joyce Ibendahl, sister of Mary Hatcher; Karen Gordon; Janet Redford; Steve Schulte; Kathy Eagan, friend of Laura Carter; Maggie Doehnert, Sister-in-law of Dave Doehnert; Rob Klouw, husband of former HB Staff Katherine Randall; Peggy & Woody Mull; Stephanie Melton, niece of Jim & Nancy Rissler; John Buchanan, Son of Dorothy Buchanan; Bobbie Hutchison, niece of Mary Esch; Marsha Howard, mother of Renata DeWees; Mery, mother of Javier Rodriguez; Barb and Tom Benkert, relatives of Lynn Cole; Lois & Peter Laning, Sister-in-law & brother of Judy Laning; Diana, daughter of Skip & Edith Light

All Church

MLK Family Community Day

Children and their families are invited to a time of play and service on Monday, January 19th in the HBP gym from 9:00-12:00. Although school is out that day in observance of the holiday, we'll have activities for moving and playing, learning and reading, and some yummy snacks! All are welcome. Questions? Contact Becca Harrison or Megan Durham. *Please note, the HBP office will be closed on January 19th in observance of the holiday.

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School

VBS will be for four year olds through completed 4th grade on June 22-26, 9:00am-12:00pm. Registration will open in April.

Wednesday Night Dinners

Dinners will be catered by Kingsley Meats & Catering, one of Louisville's most popular catering companies (unless otherwise noted). 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.

January 7

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Green Salad
Assorted Desserts
Rolls
Vegetarian - Stuffed Peppers

January 14 - Bill Bliven Pasta

Pasta
Meatballs
Alfredo and Marinara
Green Salad
Assorted Desserts
Garlic Bread
Vegetarian - Veggie Meatballs

January 21

Chopped Pork BBQ and Buns
Baked Beans
Slaw
Green Salad
Assorted Desserts
Vegetarian - Veggie Burgers

January 28

Chili
Baked Potatoes
Fruit Salad
Green Salad
Assorted Desserts
Grilled Cheese
Vegetarian - Veggie Chili



Outreach and Mission

January Grocery Cart

The Grocery Cart for January is for Portland Avenue Community Trust Homeless Ministry. The supplies they are asking for this year are:

Pasta & Canned Sauces (Pop Top)
Peanut Butter (Small Jars)
Soup, Stew, & Chili (Pop Top)
Cereals / Oatmeal
Canned Tuna / Spam (Pop Top)
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Soap
Shampoo/Conditioner
Band-Aids
Deodorant (Men & Women)



PLEASE:

- NO HUGE Cans/Packages. It's better to buy many smaller containers than 1 huge container.
- NO junk food i.e. chips, candy, cookies, sugar coated cereals
- NO items with glass packaging, which can be broken in transit
- LIMIT things that need a can opener. Pop-top cans for soup, veggies, meat or fruit really help.

Sunday School

Sunday school for all ages and breakfast will not meet on Sunday, January 4. They will resume on January 11.

- HBUniversity - January 11–February 8 HBU will explore *Going Public* by retired Presbyterian pastor Jeff Cover—a study of how biblical figures stepped boldly into public life for the common good. Jeff will lead the class, and while reading the book isn't required, it will enrich your experience. Purchase your copy wherever you buy books.
- FRIENDS - We will be studying *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America* by Ted Foote and Alex Thornburg. Reading the book is not required to join in the discussion.



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.

Parents Day Out

The PDO will begin registration for the 2026-2027 school year for members of Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church on January 6th. Church members are guaranteed a place in the school during the priority registration period. The priority registration period ends January 22nd. If you would like to receive registration forms or schedule a tour, please contact Becca Wilson in the PDO office at 896-1791 ext. 119 or by email at PDO@hbpres.net.



From We to Me

From We to Me , a support group for widows, will gather in the Living Room on the third Thursday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 . All widows are welcome to join us for fellowship, sharing and support. The next meeting is January 15th.

SPRING & SUMMER

EVENTS

Harvey Browne Youth 2026



February 7 & 8, 2026

YOUTH SUNDAY and Rehearsal



March 6-8, 2026

Retreat at Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center



March 22, 2026

Variety Show and Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser



April 25, 2026

Lock-in or Overnight Event (TBD)



June 14-20 / June 22-26 / July 15-19

Montreat (HS) / VBS / Middle School Conference

Sending Advent Blessings to you from Mzuzu, Malawi!

Our family has so much to be thankful for this Advent season. We are deeply thankful for you and your willingness to join us through prayer and financial support as we follow God's call to serve in Malawi and to support theological education with our local partner, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. Please continue praying for the country of Malawi, its government, its leaders, its students, and its future, and also for our local church partner and the universities with which we work.

Merry Christmas,

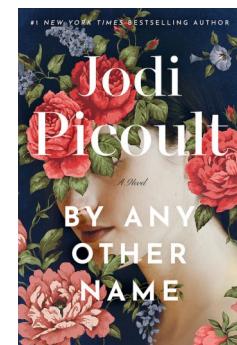
Tyler, Rochelle and Mphatso (age 12) Holm



Harvey Browne Book Groups

Bookanalia

The Bookanalia selection for January is: *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult. Marisue Coy will lead our discussion on January 21 following Weds night supper at 6pm-7pm. We will meet in the Session Room, and a Zoom link will be available in the Highlights email. If you purchase your copy from Carmichaels remember to mention we are a registered book club to receive a discount.



Bookanalia Schedule:

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

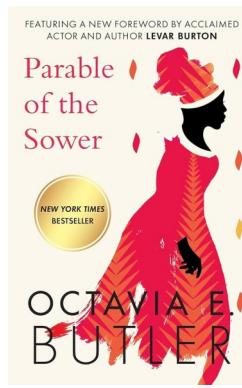
April 15, 2026: *Search* by Michelle Huneven

March 18, 2026: *Troublesome Rising* anthology

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

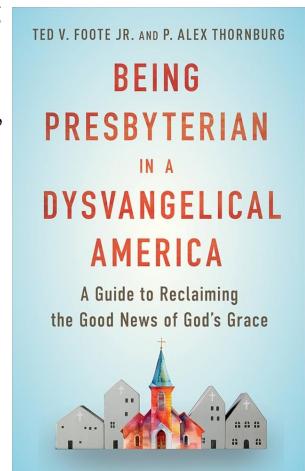
Booktalk

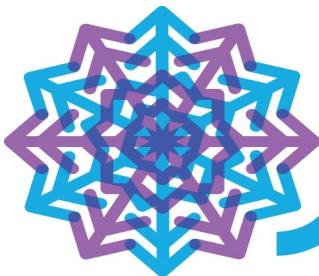
Booktalk for Tuesday, January 27th at 11:30 in the Living Room and on Zoom will be *Parable of the Sower*. When we asked Veda Pendleton for a recommendation for a book by acclaimed science-fiction writer Octavia E. Butler, this is the book she named. The novel is about a teen who develops a new religion while stiving for survival in a devastated future California. 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. If you get your book from Carmichael's, mention Booktalk at Harvey Browne and receive a 20% discount.



Pastor's Book Group

Come to the Living Room on January 4th at 4:00 to discuss our latest read, *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America: A Guide to Reclaiming the Good News of God's Grace* by Ted V. Foote Jr and P. Alex Thornburg.





JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Church Office and Building Closed for New Years Holiday</i>	2 <i>Church Office and Building Closed for New Years Holiday</i>	3 10:00– 5,000 Steps (Emory)
4 Winter Sabbath - No Breakfast or Sunday School <i>Sunday Schedule</i> 4:00– Pastor's Book Group (Living Rm)	5 9:00- Harvey's Helpers 11:00-Tai Chi (Eline) 7:00- Worship and Music Meeting*	6 9:45-Staff Mtg (Session) 7:00- Session Meeting (Session)	7 10:00– 5,000 Steps (Eline) 1:00- Prayer Mtg* Wednesday Night ♦	8 10:00- Prime Time Deeper Connections (Session)	9	10 9:00-HB Men's Breakfast (Session) 10:00– 5,000 Steps (Emory)
11 <i>Sunday Schedule</i>	12 9:00- Harvey's Helpers 11:00-Tai Chi(Eline) 1:00– Manse Task Force Meeting (Living Rm) 8:15-Men's Group (209)	13 9:45-Staff Mtg (208) 10:30 - Grace Circle (Session) - Ruth Circle (Living Rm) 11:30- Miriam Circle (Eline) 2:00– Hope Circle (Living Rm) 6:30- Personnel Committee (Living Rm)	14 10:00– 5,000 Steps (Eline) 1:00- Prayer Mtg* Wednesday Night ♦	15 10:00– Out-reach Committee Retreat (Session) 6:00– Compassion in Action (Session)	16 10:30– Mid-KY PW Planning Team (Living Rm) 1:30- From We to Me Widows Group (Living Rm)	17 10:00– 5,000 Steps (Emory Hall) 5:30– FRIENDS Christmas Party (Offsite)
18 <i>Sunday Schedule</i>	19 9:00- Family Community Day (Emory) <i>Church Office and Building Closed for MLK, Jr. Day</i>	20 9:45-Staff Mtg (Session) 6:30- Trustee Meeting (Session+)	21 10:00– 5,000 Steps (Eline) 1:00- Prayer Mtg* Wednesday Night ♦ 6:00– Bookanalia (Session+)	22 10:00- Prime Time Deeper Connections (Session) 6:00-PDO Family Night (Emory)	23	24 10:00– 5,000 Steps (Emory)
25 <i>Sunday Schedule</i>	26 9:00- Harvey's Helpers 11:00-Tai Chi (Eline) 11:00-Property Committee (Session) 8:15-Men's Group (209)	27 9:45-Staff Mtg (Session) 11:30-Booktalk+ (Living Rm) 7:00- Welcome Committee Meeting (Session)	28 10:00– 5,000 Steps (Eline) 1:00- Prayer Mtg* Wednesday Night ♦	29	30	31 10:00– 5,000 Steps (Emory)

Sunday Morning

9:00 - Breakfast
9:30 - Choir Rehearsal
9:30 - Sunday School for ALL Ages+
10:30 - Worship+
1:00 - Pickle Ball (Emory)
4:00 - Yoga at HB (Session)
4:00 - HBYouth Group

◊Every Wednesday Night

5:15 - Dinner
6:00 - Children & Youth Activities
6:00 - Handbells in Sanctuary
6:15 - Youth Game Night
6:15 - Adult Bible

* - Via Zoom/Online

+ - In person AND via Zoom

Contact the church office for links to Zoom.



Save the Date for Community Dinner and Music with Matt Black

Save the Date for Community Dinner and Music with Matthew Black on Saturday, February 7th 5:00-7:00pm in Eline Hall.

An evening of fellowship and songs featuring singer-songwriter Matthew Black! Food, community, and music! All are welcome.

Matthew Black is an indie-folk singer-songwriter known for incisive lyrics and singable melodies. He's a friend of Harvey Browne, having led music in worship as an experienced song leader with deep ties across the PC(USA). The literal son of a preacher man, Matthew left his job as a mild-mannered IT manager in 2022 to make music full-time. His songs are honest, earnest, questioning, and provocative. Humorous to deeply serious. Profane to sacred. Simple, melodic tunes that can transport you and make you believe there might be meaning and kindness in a chaotic world. And you'll still be humming the chorus days later. He lives in Louisville, Kentucky. Hear his songs and learn more at <https://matthewblackmusic.com/>.



Pastor and Staff Contact Information

Rev. Christine Coy Fohr, Pastor

christine@hbpres.net

Rev. Katherine Kupar, Associate Pastor

katherine@hbpres.net

Rev. Jim Hubert, Co-coordinator of Pastoral Care

jim@hbpres.net

Kristy Hubert, Co-coordinator of Pastoral Care

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Renata DeWees, Director of Youth Ministries

Renata@hbpres.net

Larry D. Brandenburg, Minister of Music

ldbouisville@yahoo.com

Chris Harbeson-Borgelt, Interim Organist

chris@twograndstudio.com

Beth Brandenburg, Director Children's Choir

bethbrandenburg12@yahoo.com

Carl Enoch, Sign Language Interpreter

carlenoch48@gmail.com

Amy Squires, Preschool Director

(895-2577) harveybrownepreschool@gmail.com

Becca Wilson, Parents' Day Out Director

Ext. 119, pdodirector@hbpres.net

Tessy Farrell, Nursery Coordinator

Cheryl Granger, Church Administrator

Ext. 104, cherylgranger@hbpres.net

Tim Miller, Building Manager

Ext. 106, tmillerhb@hbpres.net

Grace Graves, Admin. Assistant

Ext. 100, gracegraves@hbpres.net

James Logan, Asst. Building Manager

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