



Sunday, March 16 , 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of **BELLA VISTA**

1880 Forest Hills Blvd.
Bella Vista, Arkansas 72715

(479) 855-2390 www.pcbv.org
E-mail: pcbvoffice@pcbv.org

LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

LITURGIST

Gail Cowdin

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Bud Clark

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Gail Knudsen/ Jim Works

Chancel Choir

Sandy Bachelder, Betty Bennett, Arlene Biebesheimer, Jerry Biebesheimer, Marcia Beard,
Bud Clark, Christy Clark, Dick Francis, Gail Knudsen, Elaine McGuire, Sharry McGuire,
Peggy McMenus, Jean Nichols, Mary Nimis-Tysk, David Riter, Gary Harris,
Edie Harris, Martha Stout, Karen Watson, Brenda Works, Jim Works

Bell Choir

Arlene Beibesheimer, Gail Cowdin, Rosie Floyd, Gail Knudsen, Florence Riter,
Michelle Schall, Cathie Whittenberger, Sharon Warner, Karen Watson, Fran Zimmermann

WELCOME DESK

Terry Woods

HEAD USHER

Buddy Needham

USHERS/GREETERS

Dan Dovell, Dan Johnson, Buddy Needham, Nancy Ortman, Frank Taylor

COFFEE HOSTS

Shepherd Group 3

Nancy Ortman and Buddy Needham

AUDIO/VISUAL

Tom Hackleman,

Steve Little, Jim Watson

A SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

An asterisk () indicates that those who are able may stand;
Bold type — please respond in unison.*

WE GATHER AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE *“Andante Religioso from Op. 66, No. 4”* Mendelssohn
(Guest Organist—Jim Works)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Never again will we be exactly in this place—

With these same hopes and these same prayers.

Never again will we be exactly in this place—

With these same hurts and these same dreams.

So as we gather together in this place,

May we bring our hopes and prayers and dreams;

May we bring our hurts and wants and needs

To the God of this day, to the God of this place.

For surely God is here.

Let us worship Holy God.

***HYMN #2** *“Come, Thou Almighty King”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we cry to God in prayer and confession, God hears. Let us approach God’s throne of grace with confidence and faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you tell us to cultivate compassion,
But too often we hold grudges and keep score.
You tell us to cultivate justice,
But too quickly we forget that we belong to one another.
You tell us to let go of judgment,
But we find stones are too easy to throw.
You tell us to let go of what others think,
But so easily we hold our worth in another's eyes.
Guide our feet, our hearts, and our minds to a better world.
Forgive us when we lose our way.
Gratefully we pray,
Amen.

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God does not forsake us in times of trial. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(Please take this opportunity to "pass the peace" to those around you.)

*GLORIA PATRI #581

WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, open us to your Word and your way. Help us to seek you, your truth, and the message you intend for us today. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 12:1-7

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh-

My adversaries and foes- they shall stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

⁶Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, LORD, do I seek.

⁹ Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

¹² Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD

ANTHEM

“Hymn Tapestry”

John Purifoy

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:31-35

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

SERMON

“Cultivating Courage; Letting Go of Fear!”

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***HYMN #69**

“I, The Lord of Sea and Sky”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from a Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please fill out a prayer card or speak directly into the microphone

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. Let us praise the giver of all good gifts through our offering today.

OFFERTORY

“Cantilena”

Robert Lau

*DOXOLOGY #606

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God,

For the morning dawn, which promises new life;

And for your love, which knows our name,

We give you thanks.

For a place to belong—for this place to belong—

And for grace that is always bigger than we deserve,

We give you thanks.

For the promise of justice that will roll down like a mighty stream

And light that shines in the darkness,

We give you thanks.

We have so much to thank you for, gracious God, so in gratitude, we offer you these gifts.

May they help cultivate your promised day here.

May we help cultivate your promised day here.

Gratefully we pray,

Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #65

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

*CHARGE AND BLESSINGS

*GOING FORTH

“Go Now in Peace”

*POSTLUDE

“We Lift Our Voices”

Hymnal 710

Based on Romans 12:1



Weekly Vista

WELCOME!

We hope you will find your time of worship with us to be very meaningful. We are an open faith community.

Please visit www.pcbv.org, or call the Church Office at 855-2390 if you would like to learn more about us and inquire about membership.

OFFICE HOURS

MON- THURS:
9 am to 3 pm
FRIDAY: CLOSED

For pastoral emergencies, please call or text Pastor Judi at 479-403-9082.

Pastor's day off is Friday, she will return calls later. To schedule an in-person appointment, please email her at jmcmillan@pcbv.org stating your need.

Deacons on Call
for March:
Mary Hackleman
Susan Foster

03/09/2025 Attendance:
Members/Friends: 88 Guests: 8
Online: 12



You are invited
to refreshments
and a time of

Sugar-free cookies will no longer be supplied, unless the Shepherd group for that week chooses to do so.

Reminder, there is a sign up sheet for the second soup Supper on March 18th, in Connector Hallway. Please sign up so we know how many to prepare for. Thank you.

Please consider signing up to be an Usher or Greeter for a month this year. It's a great way to meet people and say "Hi" to those you don't always get to say "Hi" to. Sign up sheet is in Connector Hallway.

Next Shepherd Game Night is March 24th at 3pm—Hosted by Shepherd Group 3

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 16

9am Christian Ed Class
10am Worship
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)

Monday, March 17

11am-3pm—PEO Chpt BR Meeting (F/H)

Tuesday, March 18

10:30am-1pm—Writing Group
4:40-5:50pm—Taize Music (Sanctuary)
5-6pm—Lenton Soup Supper (F/H)
5:30pm-6:30pm Men's AA (A)

Wednesday, March 19

9-11am—PEO Chpt BR
5:00pm Bell Choir
6:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 20

1-3pm—Ozark Hill Hikers (C)
2-3pm—Book Group (F/H)

Friday, March 21

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
1-3pm—Knitting for Peace

Saturday, March 22

NO EVENTS

Sunday, March 23

9am Christian Ed Class
10am Worship
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)

BIRTHDAYS

March 20 Gail Knudsen

March 22 Steve Little

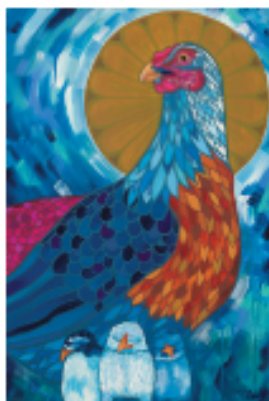
The Session asked several weeks ago during announcement time if anyone in the congregation was willing to run a church sale. No one from the congregation stepped up and after three years of working very hard on church sales, the previous teams were worn out. Right now, the plan is to not have a 2025 church sale. Should you have any items you want to sell, you may donate those items elsewhere and donate the proceeds to the church if you wish. The church still has sale funds to use for building projects like renovating the bathrooms. Again, if you have any questions, please ask an con elder or the pastor.



Last week at the Presbytery meeting in Russellville, Pastor Judi was installed as the Presbytery Moderator along with Jane Webb as Vice-Moderator. Congratulations!

All women of the Congregation are invited to the Ladies Birthday Lunch Bunch on Friday, March 28, 11:30, at BV Bar & Grill (Country Club), 98 Clubhouse Drive, 479-855-5117. It doesn't have to be your birthday month, just come and enjoy good food, friends and fellowship. Sign up in Connector Hallway so we know how many are going. Thank you.





MOTHER HEN

BY LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN

INSPIRED BY LUKE 13:31-35 | ACRYLIC & INK ON CANVAS

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

The image of Christ as a mother hen is revolutionary. Instead of using a hypermasculine, militaristic, menacing image in response to Herod's death threats, Jesus upends the expected posture of violence and chooses to identify with the nurturing, protective, feminine image of a mother hen. He explains his love for Jerusalem as a mother hen who desperately desires to lovingly shelter her young. This image drips of rejection, however, because the chicks are unwilling to be protected. In Jesus' attempt to love the world he meets unwillingness, distrust, mockery, and violence.

Jesus' use of this simile is wonderfully subversive because at first it seems like a harmless, warm, and fuzzy kind of reference—a cuddly, plump mother hen wanting to snuggle her young—but mother hens will protect their young at all cost. A mother hen will put her whole body on the line to keep her chicks safe; if danger nears, she will meet it head on, striking with her beak, with claws raised high.

Jesus wants that fox (Herod) to know that death threats will not keep him from fiercely bringing healing and restoration to the world.

—LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN