



Sunday, November 23, 2025

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of BELLA VISTA**

1880 Forest Hills Blvd.
Bella Vista, Arkansas 72715

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

MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

LITURGIST

Bev MacDonald

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Bud Clark

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Gail Knudsen

Chancel Choir

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

Bell Choir

Sandy Andrews, Arlene Biebesheimer, Lon Cross, Gail Knudsen
Florence Riter, Cathie Whittenberger, Sharon Warner, Karen Watson,
Brenda Works, Fran Zimmerman

COMMUNION SERVERS

Pastor Judi, Sharon Warner, Jean Nichols, Nancy Ortman, Florence Riter, Susan Foster

WELCOME DESK

Pat Zorne

HEAD USHER

Buddy Needham

USHERS/GREETERS

Karen Schneider, Nancy Ortman

COFFEE HOSTS

Shepherd Group #4
Dave & Flo Riter, Peggy McMenus

AUDIO/VISUAL

Tom Hackleman, Steve Little, Michelle Schall, Jim Watson

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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

“Prelude on Kremser”

Gregg Sewell

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God, who looks favorably on all the humans they created.

We sing blessings to God, who stands with us for justice and salvation.

We gather to worship God, who worked with many prophetic humans in every time and place.

We sing blessings to God, who makes faithful promises, to us and our ancestors.

We gather to worship God, whose tenderness we see shimmering in the breaking of dawn.

We sing blessings to God, who guides our feet on paths of peace.

*HYMN #263

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

CALL TO CONFESSION (Psalm 32:5)

As humans, we are all prone to error: when we are entrusted with power, we make mistakes. Let us confess together as a way of holding ourselves accountable to God and each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of justice and mercy, you call us to be shepherds who gather and protect those more vulnerable than ourselves. We speak of your justice, but our actions continue to leave others scattered on the edges of society. In the name of our own safety, we shield ourselves from others, push them away with closed doors, hostile looks, and insensitive questions. Even as we protest the actions of the rich and powerful, we have still absorbed their desire for king-like power. We remain tempted by the dream of the Good Life, where goodness for some only comes at the expense of many. Raise us up, O God, from our willful ignorance; bring us back into the fold; help us shepherd in the genuine change that reflects your just promises.

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (based on Jeremiah 23:5-6)

God promised to deal wisely with a scattered people who made compromised choices while living under an empire's occupation. God promised to save them by bringing justice and righteousness to the land. Hear the good news: Jesus's death and resurrection confirm God's faithful promises extend to us. God forgives and calls us to keep striving to do justice. 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 share the sign of "peace".)

*GLORIA PATRI

WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,**

³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ **The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸ **Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

ANTHEM

“Come, Ring Thanks” John Behnke
(played by PCBV bell choir)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 23:33-43

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself.” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?” ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Inspire our hearts, our minds, and our bodies, O God, to listen fully to your Word. Guide us toward creatively courageous interpretations that transform us as we faithfully enact your calling to us. Amen.

SERMON “At the Counter with Jesus” Dr. Rev. Judi McMillan

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***HYMN #367**

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in the triune God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through the Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe:

- that God has revealed themselves as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged.
- that God calls the church to follow them in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry.
- that God frees the prisoner, supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, and blocks the path of the ungodly.
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel. To the one and only God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please fill out a prayer card and give to the pastor or an usher.

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 (Matthew 10:8)

"You received freely; freely, give."

In celebration of God's freedom through Jesus Christ, we now give our tithes and offerings to God.

OFFERTORY

"The Bread, The Wine"

Lani Smith

*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

Bless these gifts, God who fills our lives with joy and hope; use them to fulfill your promises and bring your justice to all creation. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #675

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”
(v. 1, 2, 4)

*CHARGE & BLESSING

Pastor: Go forth to greet the world at work, as here the Lord has greeted us in worship.

All: We go forth in the name of our Creator, whose strength empowers us, whose love transforms us, and whose presence guides us. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ELDERS

Class of 2027	Nancy Johnson—Outreach
Class of 2028	Jean Nichols—Operations/Finance Vicki Erickson—Missions Tom Clark—Property

DEACONS

Class of 2026	Susan Foster
Class of 2027	Dan Dovell
Class of 2028	Fran Zimmerman Alice Irwin
Clerk	Sharon Warner
Treasurer	Karen Watson

***GOING FORTH #286** *“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”* (v. 1)

***POSTLUDE** *“The Lord is King”* Edward Broughton



WELCOME!

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

**You are invited to
refreshments and a time
of fellowship after the
service in Fellowship
Hall**

11/16/2025 Attendance
Members & Friends: 74
Visitors: 2
Online: 17

Please visit www.pcbv.org,
or call the Church Office at
479-855-2390 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 November:**
Susan Foster
Alice Irwin

WEEKLY VISTA CALENDAR

Sunday, November 23

9:00 Christian Ed Class
10:00am Worship
11am-12pm Congregational Meeting
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)

Monday, November 24

4-6pm Shepherd Group Games Night (F/H)

Tuesday, November 25

9:30-10:30am Spiritual Life (A)
5:30pm Men's AA (A)

Wednesday, November 26

4:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
5:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 27

12-1pm Thanksgiving Meal (F/H)

Friday, November 28

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
1:00pm Busy Hands (Ruth Cozad's)

Saturday, November 29

9:30am-12pm Decorating for Christmas

Sunday, November 30

9:00am Christian Ed Class
10:00am Worship
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bill & Betty
Bennett

Tony Francis

Butch & Gail
Cowdin

Jeanne Reif

Susan Foster

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (nominate/elect church officers) on November 23rd at 11am, immediately following the church service.

Butch & Gail Cowdin have graciously donated flowers for today's service.

HAPPY
60TH
ANNIVERSARY!



GAME NIGHT

Monday, November 24th
4:00—6:00pm

Shepherds Group Game Night will be in Fellowship Hall.

Thanksgiving All Church Lunch
Thursday, November 27 at 12:00
Fellowship Hall

Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and gravy will be provided. Table settings will be furnished.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Connector Hall to bring additional food items.

THANK YOU to everyone who gave food and cash donations for the Helping Hands Thanksgiving food distribution!

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday, November 29th
9:30AM

Join us for some jolly fun and fellowship as we decorate for Advent and Christmas. Bring your favorite treats to share!

