

PRAYER CONCERNS

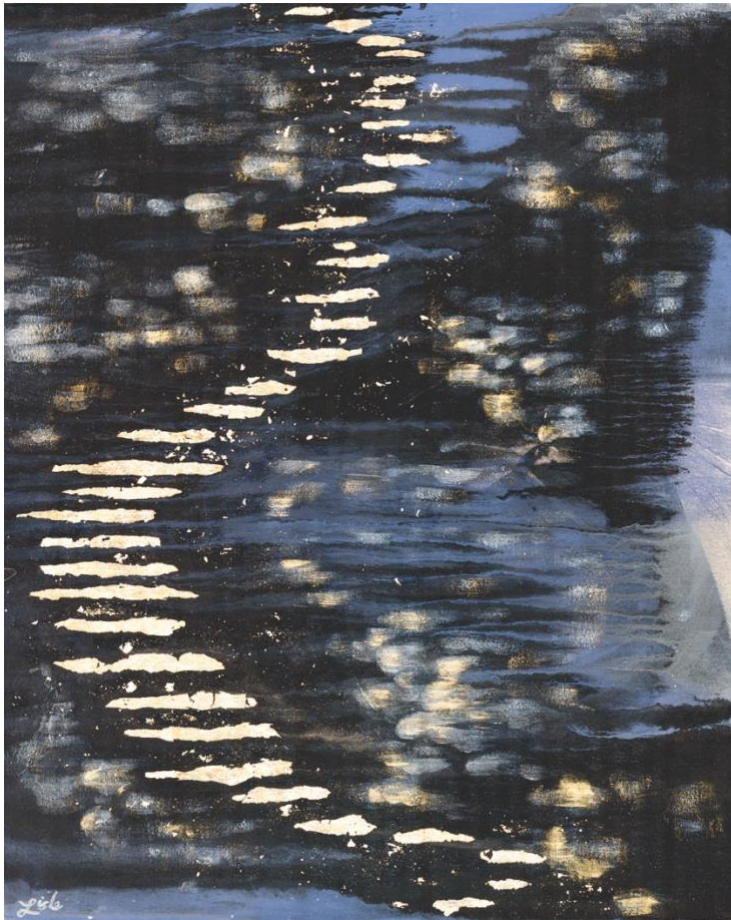
Homebound friends; Sandra Adams; Dwight Barnett; Chuck Barton; Charlene & Tom Blair; Thomas Brown; Linda Sue Caudill; Belinda Collins; Aiden Craft; Pam & Robb Hall; Kynlee Harris, Carolyn Hendrickson; Denise Hinkle; Alberta Irby; Jean Jacobs; Tommy Johnson; Mason Jones; Philip & Leigh Martin; Sheila Milburne; Diane Rasher (Wayne Neal's sister); Donny Seay; Keats Smith; Shawn Smith; Jack Taylor; Ed Tye; Karlyle Keith Young.

With confidence in your love and mercy, O God, we lift our prayers for those in need. Heal them in the body, mind or circumstance, working in them by your grace, wonders beyond all they may dream or hope. Amen.

For Reflection on Today's Text & Theme from John 3:14-21

John 3:16 is arguably the most recognized verse in the New Testament. It's a full and true statement by itself. But, like all verses in scripture, we miss so much without the context around it. The passage is part of Jesus' discourse with Nicodemus, a religious leader who visits him at night for a conversation. Jesus speaks of being born from above, but Nicodemus is confused. Jesus breaks it down this way: I know what I'm talking about because I came from heaven, and I came so that the world might be saved from condemnation, though there are many who prefer to remain hidden because "their deeds were evil."

John's gospel doesn't intimate this, but it's speculated that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night to keep this conversation a secret. Jesus wasn't exactly popular among Nicodemus' set because he challenged them. If this is true, did Nicodemus see himself in Jesus' comment about those who love to remain hidden? What about us? Do we identify with those who avoid being exposed? There is vulnerability in being fully seen. We risk being defined by our blemishes. We tend to trust few people with that picture, and only because they love us. And there it is: love. *Again and again, God's love calls us into its redeeming light.*



Light Wave

Artist Statement by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by John 3:14-21 | Acrylic painting with gold leaf on canvas

My first memory of this passage is from writing "John 3:16" on my basketball shoes when I was in seventh grade, joining many of my teammates in blending our sport with our faith. I don't remember knowing what the verse really meant, but my display of it was to make a statement about who I was—or at least who I desperately wanted to be. Like the branded clothes I wore, or the way I styled my hair, this was just another way to curate my middle school image. I wanted to show that I was good, that I fit in, that I believed in God. Later that basketball season, I added another Sharpie pen tattoo to my basketball shoes: my mother's initials and the dates of her birth and death, marking the 44 years she lived. After her funeral, my teammates added her initials and the dates of her life to their sneakers in solidarity.

Now I know that Jesus originally spoke these famous words to Nicodemus, perhaps whispering them amidst the hushed noises of the night. I wonder why Nicodemus came to Jesus in the first place? Had Jesus' teachings uprooted his religious self-image, one carefully curated to project propriety and adherence to the law? Or had death recently left a sharp sting, unraveling his tidy beliefs, creating in him a well of desperate questions about eternal life?

Jesus speaks to him with poetry of promise: God didn't send his son to judge the world, but so the world might be restored through him. For God so loved. For God so loves, that like light, God keeps traveling to reach us with that redeeming love. In this abstract painting, the gold leaf marks become like a wave gliding through the cosmos, moving endlessly until it reaches everything.

As I think back to those Sharpie pen inscriptions on my basketball shoes, perhaps, "For God so loved...so that everyone...will have eternal life" was the perfect companion to my mom's initials.



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Update We give thanks to Mary Begley for her service as our Administrative Assistant and wish her well as she begins a new full-time position as a Manager Senior Specialist with Conifer! Mary will continue perform important financial tasks such as making weekly deposits, keeping giving and other financial records, paying bills, and writing checks.

We have begun the search for a part-time Church Secretary to be in the office weekday mornings. Until that person is in place, we are making these temporary changes:

- **Church Office Hours** will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **Church Voicemail and Email** will be monitored. In case of pastoral emergency, you may call Rev. Eye at 859-329-9026.
- **Bulletin Deadline** will be Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.
- **Volunteers** are needed to answer phones and assist with office tasks during office hours. Please contact Rev. Eye if you can help.

A Friendly Reminder: If you enter the building with a key, please be sure to turn off any lights you have used and that the door locks behind you when you leave.

Emergency Food: This year with the situation of Covid and the number of people needing help with food the idea of having emergency food here at the church to give when the need arises has been discussed. There will be boxes on the table under the Souper Bowl bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to donate. These boxes will remain there.

The Next Senior Box pick up will be on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. If you have additional questions or would be interested in helping please contact Sam Tye at (606) 524-1521 or Karen Nies at (606) 344-0229. All safety guidelines will be in place.

Sanctuary Flowers: There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board next to the nursery if you are interested in providing flowers for the sanctuary during worship service. There is a sheet for each month.

Eastern Kentucky Flood Information from the Presbytery of Transylvania:



Many parts of Eastern Kentucky continue to suffer from historic flooding. To give you a sense of the devastation, this picture is of the Presbyterian Church in Booneville.

As the waters recede, damage assessments are starting to take place and the great struggle for life to get back to normal begins. That will take a while. Our Presbytery secured an Initial Grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance of \$7500 to begin to support those local recovery efforts. We will continue to work with local churches to assess the damage and find ways to support them as they meet the

needs of their communities. A work group has already provided hands-on help to the Beattyville Church and our presbytery facility in Estill County, Camp, Burnamwood, is providing shelter for displaced families and a home base for work groups. There will be lots to do and more ways to help. As more needs are identified we will be communicating with you further.

If you would like to make a contribution to help with this effort, you can make that donation by sending a check to: Presbytery of Transylvania P.O. Box 23580 Lexington, KY 40509 or through our website at <https://transypby.org/paypal/>. Please use make sure you designate this as “flood relief”.

Corbin Presbyterian Church will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, through Easter Sunday. This offering supports the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) who continues to do magnificent work responding to all the disasters we face here and abroad. Their website can be found here- <https://pda.pcusa.org/>