

HAPPENINGS

First Presbyterian Church | 1601 Main St., Murray, KY 42071 | (270) 753-6460



Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer

Clerk of Session: Carol Allen

Treasurer: George Kipphut

Choir Director: Kate Tombaugh

Accompanist: Christy D'Ambrosio

Secretary: Andrea French

Campus Ministry Director: Lisa Polivick

Youth Director: Andrew Green

Nursery Attendants: Lindsay Crafton, Lexi Bergman

Custodian: Monte Fisher

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1-3 p.m.

From Pastor Renee's Desk

The session had its annual retreat this past weekend. Here are the committees and their corresponding session elder chairs. If you have volunteered on a committee in the past or are new to the church we encourage you to get involved in the work of as many areas as you would like. Kate Tombaugh, our choir director, is always desiring that any who are interested in singing in the choir come on out on any given Wednesday at 7:00 for practice.

Please note that you DO NOT have to be a member of First Presbyterian Church to participate in choir, any committees, or any aspect of the life of this congregation. We absolutely welcome new members to the church, but you are never discouraged from participating at any level if you are not a member.

So we hope that you will get involved! Perhaps attend a committee meeting that interests you, drop in at a choir rehearsal one evening, visit a Presbyterian Women event or one of their many circle meetings (small group gatherings of study & fellowship), help out in the office from time to time, help with Children Worship & Wonder, teach Sunday School—the list is virtually endless and we'd love to have you!

Committees for 2018

i. Christian Education: Maribeth Crawford

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday
Morning at 7 a.m.

Feb 7, Martha's

Feb 14, Rudy's

Feb 21, Cracker Barrel

Feb 28, Crossroads



Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

Feb 1, Mr. B's

Feb 8, Dumplin's

Feb 15, Sirloin Stockade

Feb 22, August Moon

- Oversee Cooperative Youth Fellowship & Youth Director employed by FPC & FCC
- Develop Sunday School classes for k-2, 3-6 grades with enough teachers so sharing the responsibility is easier
- Youth Led Sunday Program
- Plan VBS with leaders from St. John's and FCC
- Oversee Children Worship & Wonder Program
- Present Bibles to Children, Youth, and College Students

2. Outreach/Mission: Shirley Latto

- Continue with all mission/outreach from the prior year (several are denominational outreach days)
- Continue with Alternative Gift Market at Christmas time
- Soup for the Soul
- Christmas mission project to replace Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box ministry

3. Stewardship: Dave Howe

- Set budget timeline
- Oversees budget process for the upcoming year
- See if direct deposit is available for pledges if people wish

4. Administration/Personnel: Ross McLoan

- Need to Adopt a Hiring process
- Make sure office is covered at all times
- Make sure nursery is covered
- Do job performance evaluations of all staff
- Review Manual of Operations and update as needed
- Create a Sexual Harassment Policy as mandated by Denomination

5. Worship: Patsy Chaney

- Oversees and plans all special season worship services in Advent, on Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Baptism of our Lord, Pentecost
- Takes care of Communion preparation/cleanup
- Selects and purchases new items for sanctuary such as

banners. Makes sure banners are changed according to season. Care of candles, baptismal font, Lord's Table

- Schedules ushers, liturgists, communion servers
- Arranges and pays for Pulpit Supply in Pastor's absence
- Picks out bulletins for special Sundays

6. Church Growth: Bill Stewart

- Marketing of church on campus and in town
- Get our advertisements on WKMS (connection to our church members who are givers to the station)
- Keeping website up to date
- Maintaining Church Facebook Like Page
- Advertise on Elevate FM (free)
- Better marketing of events- flyers on campus and in Murray, articles in MSU paper and the Ledger
- Bring a Friend to Church Sunday
- Research Church Growth techniques and strategies

7. Congregational Care & Fellowship : Val Heath

- Continue creative fellowship moments
- MOTA after church meal
- Continue card writing campaign
- Easter Breakfast for 2018, instead of Sunday School

8. Building and Grounds: Ralph Pittman & Tom Lyford

- Handles issues for 3 properties: Manse, MOTA house, Church
- Parking Lot Maintenance
- Employee parking signs
- Explore more noise reduction in Fellowship Hall
- Stepping Stones between Church and MOTA house
- Signage: modern, as well as signs entering town about our church
- Annual landscaping work and clean-up
- Annual indoor church detail clean-up/organize
- HVAC maintenance
- Handles issues for 3 properties: Manse, MOTA house, Church

9. Campus Ministry: Session elders will rotate attending PCMB quarterly Saturday meetings.

10. PCMB (Presbyterian Campus Ministry Board): Chair is Marcie Hobbs

- Oversees MOTA program
- Read Campus Minister Lisa Polivick's monthly newsletter article to get a view to its oversight

This is by no means an exhaustive description of the work of these committees. We hope that each committee will be creative and vision what it desires to accomplish this year.



Financial Report

*From the Stewardship
Committee*

As those of you know (who witnessed the burning of our mortgage note during January worship), our building debt has been retired! Thank you all who contributed to our Building Fund over the last ten years. Also, FPC received strong income in December as a result of end of the year donations. This allowed our Congregation to finish 2017 with a small surplus.

- 2017 income as of December 31
— \$187,315
- 2017 expenses as of December 31
— \$183,262

*For those who want to save their life
will lose it, and those who lose their life
for my sake, and for the sake of the
gospel, will save it.*

Mark 8:35



Clerk's Corner

Submitted by Carol Allen

Session Elders: A New Year

Pastor Renee has shared with you the Session Elder committee assignments for 2018. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize our Elders who, after years of service, graduated off of Session in December of 2017:

- ♦ Terry Foreman, Administration/Personnel
- ♦ Marcia Hobbs, Outreach
- ♦ Ken Wolf, Campus Ministry

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Session Elders who came on board beginning in January:

- ♦ Shirley Latto, Outreach
- ♦ Tom Lyford, Building and Grounds
- ♦ Bill Stewart, Church Growth

We would like to thank our Session Elders for all of their hard work, dedication, and leadership. The next time you see a Session Elder, please help us by thanking them for their service!



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Submitted by Ann Stanley

I hope you have all received your invitation to the “Women to Women” Event that is happening Tuesday, February 6 at 6 p.m. here at church. We will begin with a meal followed by a presentation from Becky Lile of Murray on Trades of Hope, a project that provides a source of income for women artisans around the world. In lieu of bringing any food, we’ll be collecting personal-care items for women as requested by Needline: Poise pads, Depends, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and body wash. Hope to see you there!

Our upcoming March 5 meeting will be a brown bag luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at church with Marion O’Rourke speaking about the history of Presbyterian Women in our church. We hope to have a good turnout for Marion. Bring a sack lunch and dessert will be provided by Kathie Fleming.

Dorothy McKenzie Circle

The Dorothy McKenzie Circle will meet at 1 p.m. on Monday, February 12th at. We will discuss Chapter 5 in our book, “Cloud of Witnesses”. Kathie Fleming will be serving dessert.



Soup for the Soul

Submitted by Ann Stanley

Well for the first time ever, I think,

Soup for the Soul was closed on Monday, January 15 due to the snow storm. This was our day to host. We had a great crew lined up: Marcie Johnson, Whitey Adams, Barbara Conley, Bill Stewart, and Tom and Sue Lyford. Mark your calendars, our next time to host will be Monday, March 19. I appreciate that our church is so willing to serve! Please contact me at asjstanley33@twc.com or call 270 753-8747 if you are interested in helping out!

Beth Belote Circle

The Beth Belote Circle will meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 1, at Debbie Burgess's home, 1710 Audubon Drive. Our discussion will focus on the first half of Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan's provocative study *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*. Newcomers are welcome, and even when some of us haven't had a chance to complete the reading, discussions are always interesting--and Debbie welcomes us with good food and wines.



SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras Party

Tuesday, February 13 at 6 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Submitted by Laynie Mitchell

Bring your biggest fork and your stretchiest pants: This is your last chance to get stuffed before the lean days of lent! Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will feature mouth-watering pancakes with the fixin's, bacon, sausage, coffee and juice.

Our friends at First Christian Church will join us in a time of festivity as we wear masks, beads, and celebrate Mardi Gras. If you would like to sign up to be a volunteer for this event, or would like to donate an item for the dinner, please see the signup form on the Narthex Table. We look forward to celebrating Mardi Gras with all of you!

Ash Wednesday Services

**Wednesday, February 14
12 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.**

First Presbyterian Church will be offering two Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, February 14. A mid-day service will be offered at 12 p.m., and an evening service will be offered at 6:30 p.m. A nursery will be provided for the evening service.





Youth Group and Wednesday Night Live

February Schedule:

Feb 7: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live at First Christian Church; Theme: Japan Night!

Feb 13: 6 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at First Presbyterian Church

Feb 14: No Youth Group

Feb 21: 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Bowling Night!

Feb 28: 5:30 p.m. Youth Group at First Christian Church

Youth Director: Andrew Green; 270-978-1527; andrewgreen12@gmail.com.



Peaceful Spirit Yoga
at First Presbyterian Church
with Instructor Gayle Rogers

Every Tuesday and Thursday,
8:30-9:30 a.m.
\$5.00 per class

This is a mixed level class, open to beginners and people of all ages. We use a vinyasa flow style of yoga that links breath to movement in poses that increase flexibility, strength, balance and stress management. This class is appropriate for those who are experienced with yoga and for those who have never done yoga before. Feel free to drop in on a class and see how wonderful it makes you feel! Questions? Contact Gayle Rogers at (270) 625-1984 or gaylerogers@wk.net.



Dear Friends of First Presbyterian,

MOTA students and I are excited about the upcoming semester. We have a new student intern who will be singing with Ascher during Praise and Worship time each Sunday. Her name is Tesla Like. She is a Murray State student majoring in Spanish with a minor in Nonprofit Leadership. She is an active member of Sigma Alpha Iota and a member of an acapella group called EQ Blu.

Tesla was one of my students at Murray High School, and she is a wonderful young woman who is also a gifted artist. Please join us for Praise and Worship to support this new ministry and these two young Christian leaders as they step out in faith to serve God in our congregation. Getting a new ministry off the ground is a challenge, and we need the congregation's prayers and presence to be successful.

To raise money for our mission trip to Guatemala, we will be holding a dessert auction and a lasagna dinner. The auction will take place after church on February 11. Please bring a dessert to the auction to raise funds for this worthwhile endeavor. We always have a great time at this event. MOTA will also prepare a lasagna dinner on Sunday, March 4 as our final moneymaker. We hope that everyone will stay and eat with us.

As outreach projects on campus this semester, we are planning to give away free tumblers with MOTA's information printed on them along with free coffee. We will host one coffee bar on February 23 and one on March 16. We are also planning a musical concert for the youth of our Presbytery on April 21. This concert will serve as an outreach to students who may be attending Murray State in the future. I will be contacting youth leaders in various churches of the Presbytery to help plan the event.

We are planning events to stay connected to the Episcopal ministry. We have scheduled a couple of activities with them this semester. Saturday trips to the Tennessee Safari Park and the Garden of the Gods will round out our semester. The mission trip to Guatemala will be the highpoint of our year. I will be telling you more about this event in the future.

In addition to our Thursday night get-togethers, we also have Sunday School at 9:30, which the students faithfully attend. We are studying the book of Romans. I am blessed by working with the wonderful young adults in our church. They are an admirable group of young people who are committed to making the world a better place. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve as their director.

Sincerely,

Lisa Polivick

February MOTA Calendar

Feb 1—Movie Night

Feb 8—Preparing Desserts for Dessert Auction/ fundraiser for mission trip to Guatemala

Feb. 15—Episcopal Fellowship

Feb. 22—Getting ready for MOTA Coffee on Feb. 23

Feb 23—Outreach Coffee Served at Hart Hall

Head & Heart

Submitted by Ken Wolf

Dear Friends, we finally completed the final of four sessions we decided to devote to the very "heavy" and very thoughtful book by Walter Wink, *Engaging the Powers*. His theology, psychology, and overall take on Christianity is significant enough that I feel sure that we will find ourselves referring to his ideas in the future.

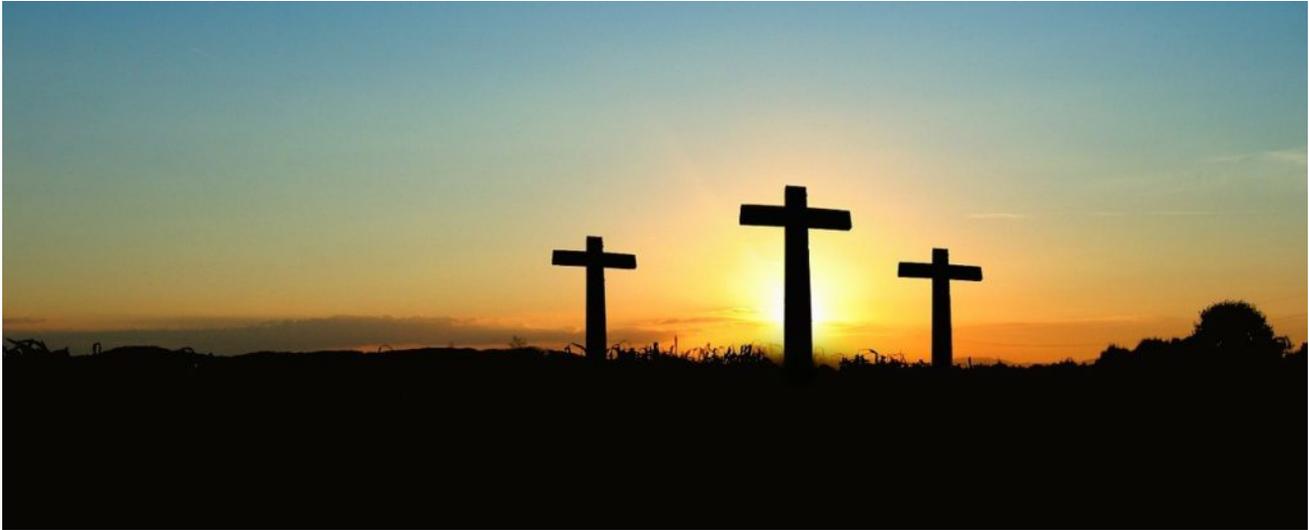
BUT MEANWHILE, WE NEED A RESPITE from a 400+ page read and so will begin in February with a three page New York Times opinion piece entitled "How Can I Possibly Believe That Faith is Better than Doubt?" which was suggested by Terry Foreman -- and which is attached.

We will meet on Thursday, February 15 to discuss this (please bring your copy if you can) and struggle once again as we have in the past with the "faith vs/and reason" issue.

I am also suggesting that we read as our next book Delwin Brown's *What Does a Progressive Christian Believe?: A Guide for the Searching, the Open, and the Curious*. (2008; 122 pages). This book too can serve as a way to revisit topics we have discussed in the past in our group. I hope that in 2018 we can discuss more precisely (with our usual combination of openness and critical intelligence) this thing called Progressive [I prefer the word Incarnational] Christianity.

Many thanks, Ken

If you are interested in reading the New York Times op-ed piece, please click this link: <https://fpcmurray.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Faith-and-Doubt-NYTimes-2017.docx>. You may also stop by our church office to pick up a copy.



Five-Week Lenten Reflection Series 2018

Submitted by Renee Meyer

"Lord, When Did We See You?"

February 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22

at First Presbyterian Church

6 - 7:30 p.m.

6:00 Soup & Salad Meal

6:30/45 Guest Speaker

A Nursery Will Be Provided

Join us as we delve into a five-week series of Lenten Reflections, exploring opportunities to make a difference in the lives of people in our own community and beyond. The theme this year will be: "When Did We See You Lord?" We will be having guest speakers from various service/non-profit organizations that not only serve people locally, but around the globe. They will give us opportunities to ask questions and share with us how we might get involved in their particular organizations if so desired.

We will meet on Thursday evenings the weeks between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. A meal of soup and salad will be provided. We are asking that folks give \$5 per person up to a maximum of \$15 per family of 3 or more.

Here are the presenters and their organizations:

February 22: Becky Lile is a representative with Trades of Hope, a missional business dedicated to empowering women out of poverty through job creation around the globe.

March 1: Mark Hurt leads 12 step recovery programming and will also tell us about Near Town (sober living for men), a new residential center for men dealing with addiction.

March 8: Jennifer Riley will talk about the new Homeless Coalition and also Soup for the Soul.

March 15: Angie Mills from Laundry of Love a ministry that believes that through the neutral space of a Laundromat, every guest and stranger can become a friend. This idea tears at the labeled constructs of “us” and “them” and erodes the societal, economic and cultural divides that separate people.

March 22: Angela Boyd will speak about the important work being done through CASA on the Lakes.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us! One does not have to be part of a religious organization to appreciate how these organizations help and serve humanity.

	<p>Save the Date!</p> <p>American Red Cross</p> <p>Blood Drive:</p> <p>Thursday, February 15,</p> <p>12:30-5:30 p.m. at FPC</p>
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February Birthdays

- George Cochran, Feb 4
- Todd Wright, Feb 6
- Kathy Stroud, Feb 9
- Valerie Heath, Feb 11
- Tim Belcher, Feb 13
- Cheryl Pittman, Feb 24





When Bad Things Happen to Good People

Pastor Renee's February 4 Sermon, titled, "When Bad Things Happen to Good People: More False Answers," is now available for viewing! Click [HERE](#) to view this sermon.

In light of the tragedy that occurred at Marshall County High School, this is the second sermon of a four-part series that addresses the difficult and sometimes painful reality that sometimes--bad things happen to good people. Pastor Renee hopes this series will be helpful for those of us who struggle with this and will offer all of us hope as we move forward. The schedule for the remaining two sermons is as follows:

February 11: "When Bad Things Happen to Good People: Toward Helpful Answers"

February 18: "When Bad Things Happen to Good People: Toward Helpful and Hope Filled Answers"

The entire sermon series will be uploaded to our website on a weekly basis. The titles of all the sermons in the series are as follows:

"When Bad Things Happen to Good People: False Answers"

"When Bad Things Happen to Good People: More False Answers"

"When Bad Things Happen to Good People: Toward Helpful Answers"

"When Bad Things Happen to Good People: Toward Helpful and Hope Filled Answers"



Prayer Concerns

*“Blessed be God, because God has
not rejected my prayer
or removed God’s steadfast love from me.”--
Psalm 66:20*

Church Members and Regular Attendees

Dan Moore	Passing of wife, Rosemary
Deanna Wolf	Recovery from hip surgery
Tana Field and Adelaide Goselin	Recovery from Flu
Billy Mitchell & Family	Passing of wife, Maryann Mitchell
Lanette Thurman	Passing of husband, Bill
Tim & Tonie Belcher	Passing of sister, Karen
Bev Reuter	Strength and Recovery
Eva Hopkins	Strength and Recovery
Juli McClain and Family	Passing of her father, Dan
Cheryl Pittman	Foot (nerve) pain
Sue Cochran	Neuropathy
Cindy Barnett	Wisdom for helping her daughter
Warren Thomas	Home
Paul Shaw	Declining health due to Parkinson’s Disease
Mary Lynn Christensen	Alzheimer's, at Brookdale
Sal Matarazzo	Congestive heart failure
Barbara Simons	Strength and Recovery

