

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

Administrative Assistant: Andrea French

Music Director: Kate Tombaugh

Accompanist: Christy D'Ambrosio

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

As I write this article for the April newsletter, it is Monday of Holy Week. Yesterday we celebrated Palm Sunday, the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem. He goes there because that is where Jewish pilgrims go during Passover—if at all possible. The crowds greet him with shouts of “Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” In just five short days, there will be another crowd shouting. They will be shouting for Pilate to crucify Jesus. And what follows is the cross. Holy Week has the capacity to send our spirits swimming in the depths of guilt, as we imagine all the ways we “crucify” Jesus in our own lives. Many focus primarily on the cross and its salvific meaning for their lives, to the extent that it is hard for them to visualize past Good Friday.

The spiritual walk is primarily associated with scrutiny, self-examination, and discipline. Granted, there is something to be said for a life well examined. It requires honesty about ourselves and our need for change and transformation. However, instead of this being the whole purpose of our lives, I think that perhaps this is just the beginning of a life that is sacred and full. A life well lived is modeled on the life of Jesus of Nazareth, who came that we might experience the tangible love of God. As Marcus Borg puts it in his book, *Jesus A New Vision*, “Jesus was an epiphany of God—a ‘disclosure’ of God or ‘revelation’ of God. He did not reveal God only in his teaching, but in his very way of being. His life

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday
Morning at 7 a.m.

April 4, Crossroads

April 11, Hih Burger

April 18, Martha's

April 25, Rudy's



Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

April 5, Panera Bread

April 12, Cracker Barrel

April 19, Mugsy's

April 26, Big Apple

thus provides particular content to what the love of God is like—giving concreteness to what otherwise can be an abstraction. As true man, he is the model for human life, specifically the life of discipleship.”

For me, discipleship means living in the light of the resurrection. What the cross and the resurrection have to say to us is that no individual, no entity, no government, no power on earth can stop the compassion and love that God has for humanity. What the resurrection says to us is that Christ’s mission continues long after the cross. The resurrection compels us to minister to others as did Christ, actively breaking down the walls of oppression—the ones that marginalize real people who feel, who hurt, who simply are looking for some mercy, grace, compassion, and justice. There are countless individuals who are in need of what the church, which takes Jesus as its model, can provide. Christ does not ask us to go where he has not already been. He beckons us to come with him. To see in each face we encounter—his face. That is all. It is quite simple, at least for a while. At least until the establishment tells us we shouldn’t be there—that this place or that one (wherever the powerful are in charge) is no place for good people like us to be hanging out. Often we are informed that our presence is a problem and we need to move on. When we hear such things, it should bring to mind all the challenges that faced Jesus in his relationship with the religious folk and politically powerful of his day. He didn’t “move on” but “kept on keepin on” even to the cross.

Friends, that is what he meant when he asked us to take up our own crosses and follow him. It means not backing down to the powerful forces in our culture. It means worrying about our neighbor’s plight. It means breaking out of the mindset that all we need to worry about is “me and mine.” Living in the resurrection means we are to help others experience the JOY of life, the love and mercy of God, as well as the compassion and healing of Christ. That is what it means for “thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

So Church let's get on with it! May your Easter be blessed and joyful!

Shalom, Pastor Renee

1) Marcus Borg, *Jesus A New Vision: Spirit, Culture and the Life of Discipleship* (Harper, San Francisco, 1987) pp. 191-192.



Building & Grounds

Submitted by Ralph Pittman

Construction Update

As many of you know, we are experiencing a “shift” in the floor in the Fellowship Hall, which has caused the floor to crack. After consultation by the building contractor, Adams Construction, there was a determination that the floor was “shrinking”

where the wood was drying out. This resulted in a difference in the concrete and wood surfaces of the floor, leading to our present predicament.

We, the Building and Grounds committee, knew this must be addressed and soon. So we contacted Floor Tech, a company from Paducah that deals specifically with this type of problem. After meeting with them, they determined they could fix the sagging by shoring up the floor with beams and using jacks to keep it level. The floor is not in danger of falling in at all.

The cost of this project will be \$7,800.00 This includes any future adjustments and they have guaranteed the price as bid. This cost DOES NOT include floor covering which will be needed after the repairs are completed. It is an unfortunate circumstance that we face this expense at this time. Any extra financial assistance for this project would be greatly appreciated.

It's Spring Cleanup Time!

Our annual Spring cleanup day will be held on Saturday, April 21. There are several areas that need attention around the grounds of the church as well as inside the church.

This is a list of projects needed for outside:

- Replace light bulbs in portico

- Replace bulbs in light fixtures in Fellowship Hall
- Take down tree at MOTA house
- Cut down bushes at MOTA house.
- Pressure wash storage building
- Clean up property lines along back of MOTA house and along west side of church
- There is also a need to clean the kitchen thoroughly.

These “chores” require some YOUNG people as climbing ladders will be involved in some of the above items. PLEASE mark your calendar and join in fellowship and help to make our church look inviting. Donuts will be served!



Clerk's Corner

Submitted by Carol Allen

Stated Session Meeting
March 19, 2018

Session actions:

- Elected George Kipphut as treasurer and Carol Allen as clerk of session for 2018
- Approved purchasing Bibles for the children of the church
- Approved giving stoles to Brittany Hesson and David Madewell, both FPC members, upon their ordinations for the ministry



Financial Report

Submitted by George Kipphut

Thank you to all who responded to the appeal for donations to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Your generosity allows FPC to help many more in our community who are in need.

2018 General Fund Income as of
March 28 — \$41,564

2018 General Fund Expenses as of
March 28 — \$42,796

*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





Submitted by Ann Stanley

Marion O'Rourke gave an amazing talk at our March meeting! Her history of many of the colorful and talented women in our church was informative, humorous and poignant! Thank you, Marion!

I'm glad to announce our new officers, who will begin in September 2018. Moderator will be Shirley Latto, Secretary will be Kathie Fleming, and Treasurer remains Marcie Johnson. We owe you all our thanks and appreciation for helping our organization continue in this church!

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 2 at 11:30 a.m. We will install our officers at this meeting. It will be a regular brown bag meeting, so please bring lunch and Joan will provide a dessert for us!

Cheryl wants me to let you know that the Spring Gathering is Thursday, April 19 in Caney Fork. Cheryl will be attending and would love to take as many as she can with her!

Our May meeting will fall on Monday, May 7; we'll plan to all go out together for lunch. That will complete our meetings for the summer. We will resume again in September when the new officers take over.

McKenzie-Moore Circle

McKenzie-Moore Circle - We are playing around with what to call this circle as we'd like to keep some of these important women's names in the forefront. I think this maybe what we settle on as both of these women bear the name Dorothy. We'll happily take any suggestions! At any case and under any name, we plan to meet April 9th at the church and continue our study of "Cloud of Witnesses", chapter 7.

Beth Belote Circle

Submitted by Marcie Johnson

The Beth Belote Circle will return to Debbie Burgess' home, 1710 Audubon, meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 5. While enjoying Debbie's warm and delicious hospitality (wine! hors d'oeuvres!), we will plan the schedule for upcoming meetings. The proposal is to have each participant take a turn presenting a devotional—a scriptural reading, poem, hymn or song, story, or experience that has been especially powerful in bringing meaning to her own faith. Please come with ideas and a calendar so that we can identify the presenter for each month. We will also discuss two new requests for "adopted family" help. All women are welcome. If anyone would like to ask some questions before arriving, you may email Marcie Johnson at mjohnson2@murraystate.edu—and do consider joining us for a truly good evening.

For we walk by
Faith
not by sight
2 Corinthians 5:7



Soup for the Soul

Submitted by Ann Stanley

We had many people give generously of their time on Monday, March 19, our church's evening to host at Soup for the Soul. A big thank you to Kathie and Don Fleming, Ralph and Cheryl Pittman, Jerry Meyer, Whitey Adams, and Marcie Johnson. Our next evening to serve is May 21. If you are interested in serving, please contact me at (270) 754-8747 or text at (270) 293-7049.

Wednesday Night Live: For People of All Ages

A joint mission presented by First Presbyterian Church and First Christian Church

April Schedule:

April 11: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live at First Presbyterian Church: Peacemaking Through Interfaith Dialogue with Maysoon Khatib.

April 25: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live at First Christian Church: BINGO Night! This last WNL of the season will feature BINGO, Karaoke, and Ice Cream.

Youth Group

Serving First Presbyterian Church and First Christian Church Youth Grades 6-12

April Schedule:

April 4: No Youth Group (Public schools are on Spring Break all week)

April 18: 5:30 p.m. Youth Group at First Christian Church

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





First
Presbyterian
Church
9:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt!

Submitted by Liz Wall

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

All children are invited to join us for an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning! The hunt will begin at 9:30 a.m., before our Easter Breakfast Potluck.



Dear friends of First Presbyterian,

The spring semester has flown by, and we are already entering the last month of school for MSU students. Our student intern Brett Eisenhauer will be graduating in May and will be working for our Presbyterian Mission Board as a YAV (Young Adult Volunteer) in Washington D.C in the coming year. Brett was recently selected to be a member of Who's Who at Murray State University. We are so proud of her! She will be such a wonderful representative of our

congregation in this program.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Shelby Grimm, who will be taking over as our intern after Brett graduates. Shelby first attended MOTA when Ascher began leading our praise music. She has been an active member of MOTA and has brought lots of new ideas to the group. In addition to MOTA, on campus, she is involved in NSSLHA (National Student Speech Language Hearing Association), the Murray State Dance Company, the Honors College, and she volunteers at the Speech and Hearing Clinic. Shelby is a Communication Disorders major, and her goal is

to work as a Speech-Language Pathologist in a children's hospital setting. When she isn't studying, Shelby spends her free time with her friends and family, listening to music (she loves theatre/musicals!), dancing, reading/writing short stories/journals, and doing crafts.



MOTA students will be participating in another PB and J (Pizza, Beer, and Jesus) with the Episcopal Campus Ministry at The Apple on April 10. We will be discussing the theology of salvation, sanctification, and justification. Please join us at The Apple at 7 p.m. if you would like to be part of this conversation.

April 15 is an important Sunday for us. After church, MOTA will host our final fundraising event for our mission trip: a lasagna dinner. After eating, the Christian Education Committee will recognize graduates. Please plan to join us for the meal and celebration. We raised \$740.00 at our dessert sale. Thank you for your generosity!

We are preparing now for our mission trip to Chimaltenango, Guatemala, June 23-30. Jerry and Renee Meyer, Sarah Locke, and I will be going on the trip this year. We will be hosting a medical clinic, providing a shoe ministry, and conducting a Bible School for children at the Grace English School. The school was founded by an American couple after their child, Grace, passed away. It focuses upon teaching needy children to speak English so that they will be employable as they get older.

The school is currently directed by Logan Sierra, who grew up as an orphan in Guatemala. He was later adopted by an American couple and attended high school and college in the USA and then returned to help other poor Guatemalan children. You can learn more about the school at graceenglishschool.org. On Saturday, April 28, MOTA students will head out for a visit to Garden of the Gods to close out the semester. This trip is planned especially for Brett, who wanted to go there one more time before graduating. Knowing that Brett is spending the next year with the YAV program makes it a little easier to say our goodbyes to one of our most faithful members. Please be in prayer for her as she begins this new chapter of her life. Thank you for your support of the MOTA program. You are an amazing congregation!

In God's service,

Lisa Polivick

April MOTA Calendar

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April 1: Easter

April 2-8: Lisa's Spring Break

April 5: Movie night at the MOTA House

April 10: PB & J with the Episcopal College Fellowship

April 15: Lasagna Dinner after church/Recognition of graduates

April 19: Firepit at the MOTA House

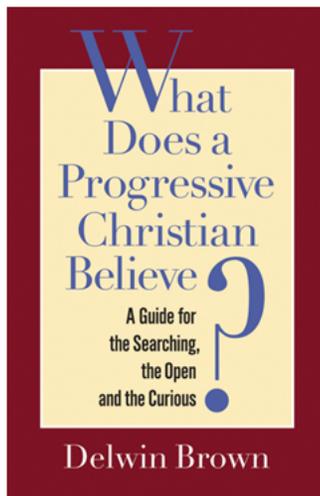
April 26: MOTA Planning meeting for Summer Orientations and Great Beginnings

April 28: Garden of the Gods

April 30-May 5: Dead week at MSU

May 7-11: Finals

May 12: Graduation



Head & Heart

Submitted by Ken Wolf

Head & Heart will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, at First Presbyterian Church. We will discuss the opening chapters (1-4 if possible) of Delwin Brown's book, "What do Progressive Christians Believe?" (2008). This will be a very pleasant read. All are invited to attend. You may feel free to read my notes to supplement your reading and/or preparation, if desired. They may be found [HERE](#) or by visiting our current Head & Heart update page at fpcmurray.com.



Easter Breakfast Potluck

Submitted by Val Heath

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

9:45 a.m.

Please bring your friends and family!

A sign-up sheet will be located in the narthex.

Contact Val Heath with any questions.

(270) 925-6067

April Birthdays

Hillary Belcher, April 1
 Da'Sha Tuck, April 7
 Lisa Polivick, April 8
 Laura Ken Hoffman, April 10
 Whitey Adams, April 10
 Sal Matarazzo, April 21
 Deanna Wolf, April 21
 Ralph Pittman, April 30

April Anniversaries

Jamie & Roy Helton, April 28



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

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Marilyn Miller | Recovery from surgery |
| Bill Schell | Home |
| Dan Moore | Passing of wife, Rosemary |
| Deanna Wolf | Recovery from hip surgery, Spring Creek #222 |
| Billy Mitchell and Family | Passing of wife, Maryann Mitchell |
| Lanette Thurman | Passing of husband, Bill |
| Bev Reuter | Strength and Recovery |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Eva Hopkins | Strength and Recovery |
| Juli McClain and Family | Passing of her father, Dan |
| Sue Cochran | Neuropathy |
| 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 |
| Jo Martin | Heart problems |

Family and Friends of the Congregation

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Janie Green (Andrew's Wife) | Blindness due to swollen optic nerve |
| Greg Randall (Morgan's Father) | Grief |
| Glen Davis (Andrea Howe's Father) | Health issues |
| Mason | Injured student from Marshall County |
| Brandon and Stacey Cayton | Foster parents |
| Jim Stanley | |
| Parkland Florida and Marshall County | Victims and Families |
| Jeff Shipley (Pastor Renee's Friend) | Cancer |
| Sonia Fall (Pastor Renee's Family) | New terminal diagnosis |
| Justine Ostlund | Stroke |
| Jana Maxlow (Dave Howe's Friend) | Breast Cancer |
| Julie Stone (Andrea French's Aunt) | Breast Cancer |
| Laura Stewart (Bill Stewart's Mother) | Recovery |
| Sam Dean | (Joe Paul Dean's Brother, Autism) |

| | |
|--|--|
| Liam Coursey | Former Choir Intern |
| Sherry (Sue Cochran's Sister) | Health issues |
| Niko | Testicular cancer (spread to lungs, brain) |
| Terri Prince | Lung cancer and chemo |
| Family of Mildred Valentine | |
| Family of Betty Shepperson | |
| Family of Sally Wright (Todd's Mother) | |
| Tabitha and Junior | Pittman's family |
| Sandy Cunningham | Pastor Renee's mother, severe macular degeneration |



Save the Date!

American Red Cross

Blood Drive:

Thursday, April 19

12:30-5:30 p.m. at FPC