

# 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.



Dear Friends of First Presbyterian,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ (Phil 1:2). As I write this letter, my heart overflows with the joy I have experienced serving as your MOTA Director during the last school year.

Members of our church have donated \$5,438.00 toward our summer mission trip in June. I am completely overwhelmed by your generosity, and I sincerely thank God for each of you. Our mission team will be traveling to Chimaltenango, Guatemala on a medical mission from June 22-June 29. Dr. Jerry Meyer, Pastor Renee Meyer, MOTA student Sarah Locke, and I will be traveling with Jenna Goggins, the pastor of First Presbyterian of Paducah and her co-leader from Vermont, Jennifer DeMauro. Jennifer, a friend of Jenna's, is an elder in the Presbyterian Church who has worked with poverty relief in Guatemala for twenty-five years.

We are staying in a secure, gated college dormitory and working with Grace English School for the trip. This nonprofit school was established by an American couple after their child, Grace, passed away. Bill Minihan, the founder, owns the Badgett Playhouse Theater in Grand Rivers, and his students at Grace School are already pairing with Spanish classes in Western Kentucky high schools through Skype to improve their English language skills.

## Join Us!



### Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday  
Morning at 7 a.m.

May 2, Cracker Barrel

May 9, Crossroads

May 16, Hih Burger

May 23, Martha's

May 30, Rudy's



### Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

May 3, Jasmine Thai

May 10, Applebee's

May 17, Panera Bread

May 24, The Garden Cafe

May 31, Mr. B's

The school is managed by Logan Sierra, who was reared in a group home in Guatemala after his parents died. He was eventually adopted by an American couple and educated in the U.S., but he returned to Guatemala to educate disadvantaged children. Besides offering classes, the school also offers a free after-school program to help children learn to speak English, a skill that will make them more employable as they get older.

The school also employs Reynaldo Juarez Aju, Ph.D., a graduate of the National Conservatory of Music. He is the music teacher at the private school and offers local children free music lessons in drums, violin, guitar, ukulele, piano, and trumpet. I knew that our congregation would love hearing about this ministry since we all love music so much.

Because of his own life experiences, Logan has a special place in his heart for underprivileged children. He is going to take our team to several different places that work with the neediest children in the area. For example, we are visiting one of the poorest rural areas to assist with a feeding program. Your donations will supply the food for the families the day we visit. Another facility helps special needs children, some of the most underserved populations. A third site helps abandoned and abused girls. We will be donating shoes, vitamins, and Children's Tylenol in each of these locations. We will also conduct Bible Schools for these young people and for those who accompany their parents to the clinics.

Jerry will be seeing patients in temporary clinics while Sarah Locke, RN, assists him. Jennifer DuMauer has set up these clinics for years. She works with an international nonprofit organization to arrange details and purchase prescription medications such as antibiotics for mission teams. Renee and I will be helping at the clinics as needed, but our focus will be on the Bible Schools.

As a college student, I agonized over whether I wanted to teach English and history or go into full-time ministry. I even contemplated becoming a missionary. As many of you know, I

left teaching for a while almost twenty-five years ago and worked for First Methodist Church. Who could have guessed that at this point in my life, God would grant me the chance to work in both areas? I am so thankful that you have given me the opportunity to live out my calling. We have some extraordinary young people coming into our fellowship through MOTA. They are bright, talented students who are truly devoting their lives to the service of others. Your love and support are enriching their lives, and through them, you minister to the church yet to come.

As I close, I'd like to quote from Philippians 1:3-11, for it expresses my thoughts perfectly:

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me....And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God."

Sincerely, Lisa Polivick



## Need Line Referrals

*Submitted by Andrea French*

Our church works in collaboration with other churches and non-profit organizations in the Murray community to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families who are experiencing a financial crisis. These folks are referred to us by Need Line, an organization we greatly depend on to help those in need. Some weeks we receive no referrals, yet other weeks we have received as many as six or more. We will start sharing the number of individuals/families our church has been able to help each month. Thanks to the generosity of our loving congregation, we were able to provide the following assistance so far this year:

<b>January:</b>	<b>\$579.64</b>	<b>11 units of service</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>\$1,104.62</b>	<b>16 units of service</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>\$875</b>	<b>17 units of service</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>\$826.1</b>	<b>16 units of service</b>



## Faith & Film

*Submitted by Debbie Batteiger, FCC*

Intergenerational Faith & Film viewing at First Christian Church

**2017 film, “Wonder”**

**Thursday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.**

**Followed by discussion and snacks**

Based on The New York Times bestseller, “Wonder” tells the incredibly inspiring and heartwarming story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters fifth grade, attending a mainstream elementary school for the first time. This film received the “Humanitarian Award” and inspires us to see our common humanity beyond stereotypes. We

encourage children, youth, and adults to attend this viewing.



## Clerk's Corner

*Submitted by Carol Allen*

Stated Session Meeting

April 12, 2018

Session actions:

- Debbie Hixon was received into membership.
- Session approved changing the property insurance carrier from State Farm to Southern Mutual, a company that insures only churches, through Peel and Holland; this change reduces the annual premium by approximately 50%.
- Session approved the bid for the repair work on the floor of fellowship hall at a cost of \$7,800 with work to begin on April 30.



## Financial Report

*Submitted by George Kipphut*

Thank you to all who have responded so generously with recent contributions in support of The One Great Hour of Sharing, the MOTA Mission Trip, and our upcoming Crawlspace Repair Project.

2018 General Fund Income as of March 31— \$41,564

2018 General Fund Expenses as of March 31 — \$49,084

*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.*



*Submitted by Ann Stanley*

The Presbyterian Women will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on May 7 at the home of Shirley Latto. This will be our final time to meet until we reconvene in the fall. To help Shirley plan accordingly, please let Ann Stanley or Cheryl Pittman know if you are able to attend. We look forward to seeing a good group!

## Beth Belote Circle

*Submitted by Marcie Johnson*

The Beth Belote Circle will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 3, at the home of Debbie Burgess, 1710 Audubon Drive. Marion O'Rourke will present the devotion, a study of the roles of women and women's associations in the early years of First Presbyterian Church, Murray. If anyone would like to ask some questions before arriving, email Marcie Johnson at [mjohnson2@murraystate.edu](mailto:mjohnson2@murraystate.edu), and do consider joining us for a truly good evening.

## McKenzie-Moore Circle

We plan to meet on Monday, May 14, for our last time until Fall. We are planning to bring a brown bag lunch that day and meet at Noon, rather than our usual time of 1 p.m. We have the last two lessons to cover and we want to get them both discussed before we leave. Joan has agreed to bring treats for dessert. Looking forward to seeing everyone to finish up our study!



## Soup for the Soul

*Submitted by Ann Stanley*

Our next time to host at Soup for the Soul will be Monday, May 21. Patsy Chaney and Annie Wells have already agreed to work the early shift, from 2:15 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. I'm needing two more people for the first shift, and three more people for the second shift: 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping out, please call or text me at (270) 293-7049, or see me in church!



## Youth Group

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

### May Schedule:

**May 2:** 5:30 p.m. Youth Group at First Christian Church

**May 9:** No Youth Group

**May 16:** Youth Group gathering at restaurant TBD

**May 23:** 5:30 p.m. Youth Group at First Presbyterian Church

**May 30:** 5:30 p.m. Youth Group at First Christian Church

Youth Director: Andrew Green; 270-978-1527; [andrewgreen12@gmail.com](mailto:andrewgreen12@gmail.com).

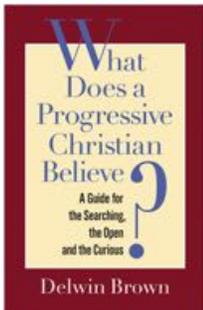
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## May MOTA Calendar

May 7-11: Finals Week

May 12: Graduation

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## Head & Heart

*Submitted by Ken Wolf*

Our ecumenical, Head and Heart book group will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 17 to continue our discussion of Delwin Brown's, "What does a Progressive Christian Believe?" Join us for a look at some interesting ideas on sin, salvation, and the message of Jesus in our troubled world. Notes are provided via this link [HERE](#) in this newsletter, or are available by request from [wolken43@gmail.com](mailto:wolken43@gmail.com). All are invited to attend.



### Save the Date!

Our Next ARC Blood Drive Will Be Held On:

Thursday, June 14, 2018

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



Dear Church Family,

Ken and I want to thank each one of you who have so generously, kindly, and warmly supported us during my recovery from my broken hip. Your cards, calls, food, and especially visits have encouraged and supported us as we have each been dealing with different aspects of this challenging time.

But more than anything, we thank you for your prayers because there must have been a lot of them for us to be in as good a shape as we are! We are blessed by not only our good God, but by our good Pastor, our good friends, our good family, our good students, our good church family.....a truly blessed community surrounds us. What lucky people we are to have you in our lives!

With thanks and love, Ken and Deanna Wolf

## May Birthdays

Ronnie Hoffman, May 1  
Eric Frederick, May 1  
Sue Cochran, May 5  
Renee Meyer, May 7  
Griffin Hoffman, May 10  
Margaret Boone, May 15  
Tonie Belcher, May 17  
Maribeth Crawford, May 18  
Victoria Holmes, May 19  
Tom Lyford, May 23  
Sarah Locke, May 28

## May Anniversaries

Marcie & Michael Johnson, May 17  
Robin & Terry Holmes, May 25



## 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

Margaret Boone

Liz McClain

Marcie Hobbs

Maribeth Crawford & family

Brittany Hesson

Marilyn Miller

Bill Schell

Medical issues

Hypoglycemia

Wisdom and strength

Passing of her aunt, Trav

Passing of friend, Nancy Phan

Recovery from surgery

Home

Dan Moore	Passing of wife, Rosemary
Deanna Wolf	Recovery from hip surgery
Billy Mitchell	Passing of wife, Maryann Mitchell
Lanette Thurman	Passing of husband, Bill
Eva Hopkins	Strength and recovery
Juli McClain and family	Passing of 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**

Nina Hobbs (Marcie Hobbs' granddaughter)	Abnormal head MRI, fluid blockage, will be seeing a specialist
Hubert Stroud (Kathy Stroud's father in law)	Hospice care
J.C. Hobbs & family (Marcie Hobbs' son)	Divorce
Laura (Terri Long's sister)	Medical decisions for heart and other health issues
Rita Hendon (George Cochran's aunt)	Cancer recurrence
Ronald Locke (Sarah Locke's grandfather)	Recovery
Phyllis Valdez (Juli McClain's friend)	Hospitalized
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
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 Sally Wright (Todd's mother)	
Tabitha and Junior	Pittman's family
Sandy Cunningham	Pastor Renee's mother, severe macular degeneration