

# 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

Admin Assistant: Andrea French

Campus Ministry Director: Lisa Polivick

Youth Director: Andrew Green

Music Director: Kate Tombaugh

Accompanist: Christy D'Ambrosio

Storyteller: Lucy Mitchell

Nursery Attendants: Mandy Brogan,  
Lucy Mitchell

Custodian: Monte Fisher

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.;

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

## From Pastor Renee's Desk

Kennon Callahan's book, "Twelve Keys to an Effective Church: Strong, Healthy Congregations Living in the Grace of God." says the most important factors in determining the effectiveness of a congregation have to do with the relationships that are formed therein. We have a number of the functional characteristics in place: prime location, good parking, land/landscaping, open accessibility, etc., so I will focus here on the relational characteristics.

Callahan says "people are not searching for programs and activities or institutional structures, but for events of compassion, for events of mission, and for experiences of hope in which they can share." He originally wrote these words in 1983. That was a different time than today. It may very well be that people yearn for meaningful relationships even more today than they did 30 years ago because our technology has eliminated much of our face-to-face contact. The church may be one of the few places left where relationships have sacramental value. It is an intimate community where burdens and joys are shared. At its best it is a place that gives people meaning, value, and affirmation. It is a place where Christ is honored when people are cared for—both within and outside of the church.

Callahan says that shepherding is the central way in which people develop sharing and caring relationships. Of course this means visiting people who are in the hospital, nursing home, or are homebound.

1) Callahan, Kennon L., *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church: Strong, Healthy Congregations Living in the Grace of God* (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2010) 120.

## Join Us!



### Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday  
Morning at 7 a.m.

Sept 5, Martha's

Sept 12, Rudy's

Sept 19, Cracker Barrel

Sept 26, Crossroads



### Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

Sept 6, Panera Bread

Sept 13, The Garden Cafe

Sept 20, Mr. B's

Sept 27, Dumplin's

He says however that this is not the exclusive responsibility of the pastor—that members of the congregation, who are especially gifted at this type of service, are critical to the team. In the Presbyterian system, ruling elders are responsible for this, in lieu of a diaconate—but there are plenty of people in congregations, who are not elders or deacons—that are very gifted for this type of ministry.

I have witnessed first-hand your ability to minister to one another and you often do so in a very quiet, inconspicuous manner. I was visiting a church member once while they were in Spring Creek and then again when they went home. Both times another church member, who by the way is not formally a part of our Congregational Care Committee, stopped by with some goodies from Wild Mountain Bakery. It was a very caring gesture and warmed the hearts of both me and the individual challenged with health issues. Add the many episodes just like that to the wonderful work of our Congregational Care Committee, and you have a solid community of folks that loves and cares for one another.

I just want to take a moment to brag on our Congregational Care Committee. Not only do they bake goodies and then deliver them to our homebound members, but they organize meals for those who are convalescing from health problems. In addition, and you know this to be true if you have ever been recovering from illness, suffered grief, or experienced a joy like ordination, graduation, birth, etc., there is a vital card ministry within this committee. These busy bees are known to write as many as 300 cards a month to members and their extended families and friends, who may not be a part of our congregation, but are folks we are holding close in prayer and concern. Not only is this a gift of time but the cards they are written on are donated by them. If you have ever received one of them, then you know that these are special cards. They are unique, beautiful, and inspiring, and they are not found on the racks at Walmart, Walgreens, or Kroger. So not only is their great care in the words they choose to write in these cards, but they have a beauty that is sure to uplift the spirits of all who receive one.

There are many other ways that shepherding and care take place in this congregation. Our younger adults are often seen helping our older, not-so-physically-able members to get around both inside the church and outside of it. There are other folks who commit to driving people to church, to grocery shopping, and to doctor's appointments because they

are no longer able to drive.

So I just want you to know that your many acts of kindness and care are central elements for truly living in community. I have not exhausted all the ways you minister in this article. There are not enough pages in this newsletter to do so.

God bless you for all the ways that you extend the love of Christ to others. It is absolutely what helps give people hope in times of despair. There are folks in this congregation who are walking the deep valleys right now. Thank you for walking beside them and extending the grace and peace of Christ. It is just the healing balm they need. Shalom, Pastor Renee



## MOTA

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*Submitted by Lisa Polivick*

Dear Friends of First Presbyterian,

MOTA is off to a great start this semester. Ascher, Tesla, and I led the early morning service held on the Hart Hall Lawn during Great Beginnings. Shelby Grimm is our intern this year, and she has brought many new ideas to our group. We have a full calendar planned for

September, beginning with a day on Kentucky Lake on Saturday, September 8. Our theme this year is found in Psalm 121: "I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From where comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." You will see our purple T shirts with the mountains on them. We are giving away cups to college students with the same motif. Ascher and Tesla will continue their time of "gathering music" from 10:30-10:45 a.m. each Sunday. Please contact us if you know a student who is attending Murray State. We are always looking for new people to be a part of our organization.

Sincerely,

Lisa Polivick

## MOTA Calendar

Saturday, September 8—A Day at the Lake—Leave the MOTA House at 9:00 a.m. to go out on a pontoon boat at KenLake State Park

Thursday 13—P,B, AND J with the Episcopalians at The Apple

Tuesday 18—Murray Rock Painting

Tuesday 25—Movie Night at the MOTA House

We have Sunday School in the MOTA house every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries are provided! We also have a home-cooked meal each Sunday after church in the MOTA House.



*Submitted by Shirley Latto*

*And God is able to provide you  
with every blessing in  
abundance, so that by always  
having enough of everything,  
you may share abundantly in  
every good work.*

--2 Corinthians 9:8

This verse seems to be the heart of our Presbyterian Women's philosophy, and we want to invite all women to join us. We meet the first Monday of each month at Church in the session room. These are called "Brown Bag" lunch meetings and they provide us with time to organize our plans for upcoming events, as well as time to revisit and refine past accomplishments. For those who are unable to attend during the day, we try to schedule an evening during the year so that everyone can be present. We urge each woman at First Presbyterian Church to join us and come as often as you are able. We enjoy the support and sisterhood of this group as we work together to accomplish good things, not only for our community but for the world-wide community.

### **Our schedule is as follows:**

September – Labor Day – no meeting

October 1 - 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

November 10 – Holly Berry

December – Back Pack month Schedule to be announced

January 7 – 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

February 4 – 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

March 4 – 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

April 1 – 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

May 6 – 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

## **Beth Belote Circle**

The Beth Belote Circle will meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, at Debbie Burgess's home. Debbie herself will offer not only her famous hospitality (wine, appetizers, warm welcome) but also the presentation for the month on an experience that has deepened her faith. Circle members will also conduct a brief business session on plans for their newest "adopted" family. Newcomers are always invited.

## **McKenzie-Moore Circle**

The Dorothy McKenzie-Moore Circle will meet on September 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the session room at FPC. Our study this year will be "Twelve More Women of the Bible," which includes a book and an accompanying DVD that we will watch during our sessions. If you are interested in joining us for this study, please contact Cheryl Pittman by August 27.

# Rally Day: August 19, 2018

*Photos Submitted by Jerry Meyer*

First Presbyterian Church held its annual Rally Day on Sunday, August 19, 2018. After learning about various Christian Education opportunities available at FPC, churchgoers enjoyed a potluck breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, followed by worship service at 10:45 a.m.

Please enjoy the photos submitted by our very own Jerry Meyers.



# GIVE BLOOD

*You can make a difference.*



**American Red Cross**

**Save the Date!**  
Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Held On:  
**Thursday, October 18, 2018**  
From 12:30-5:30 p.m. at FPC



Murray Calloway County  
Need Line

## 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. Thanks to the generosity of our loving congregation, we've been able to provide the following assistance:

January	\$579.64	11 units of service
February	\$1,104.62	16 units of service
March	\$875	17 units of service
April	\$826.1	16 units of service
May	\$1,255.09	21 units of service
June	\$1072.52	14 units of service
July	\$1233.66	15 units of service
August	\$1225.23	19 units of service



## Soup for the Soul

*Submitted by Ann Stanley*

Calling all volunteers, our next opportunity to serve at Soup for the Soul is Monday, September 17. I have both shifts open: 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. I'll need at least 4 people per shift. Please call or text me at (270) 293-7049! Thanks! --Ann Stanley

## All Y'all Camp

*Submitted by Debbie Batteiger*

Mark and Nancy Dycus will be overseeing All Y'all Camp the weekend of September 7-9.

All Y'all Camp is family-friendly and for people of all ages. The theme this year is "Beyond Belief." In the beautiful setting of nature, we will be looking for the God of the Universe. Some of the topics we will discuss are:

1. What if we belong to God?
2. What if God is bigger?
3. What if Hope is Real?
4. What if there is more than enough?
5. What if we Change the world?

Grandma Joyce will be there will tons of crafts for all ages. There will be swimming, canoeing, fishing, games, activities, good food and lots of fellowship. We will have a wonderful service at the lake on Sunday morning. You can participate in some or all the activities. Just come!

This camp is located just thirty minutes from Murray at 4943 Barge Island Rd, Benton, KY, 42025. The cost is \$30 per individual and \$70 for a family of 4 or more. Please see Andrea French in the church office for a registration form!

## Wednesday Night Live: September

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Ruth Ragovin*

You are invited to join us as we kick off a new season of Wednesday Night Live!

Wednesday Night Live (WNL) is a joint mission between First Presbyterian Church and First Christian Church. Featured on various Wednesday evenings, WNL offers food, fellowship, and education about interesting topics, suitable for people of all ages. A meal will be served at 5:30 p.m., and the program will begin at 6:00 p.m. A suggested donation of \$5 is asked to cover the cost of one meal, but families of 4 people or more will only have to pay at the most \$15.

During the month of September we will have the privilege of learning from two elders from First Christian Church: John King and Ann Thornton. For our opening WNL on September 12, "Breakfast With John," John King (aka Saint John) will share with us about his long life, starting when he and his twin brother, Jack, lived at a Presbyterian orphanage in Texas. From those humble beginnings, John went on to live in many communities in the United States, working as a hospital administrator, sharing his life with his wonderful wife, Patsy, and four daughters. We also look forward to welcoming Murray Christian Fellowship back as they will prepare a delicious breakfast meal for us (with proceeds going to support its college ministry on campus).

On September 26, Ann Thornton and Nina Natividad will tell us about their most recent month-long trip spent volunteering with Starfish International, an organization dedicated to the education and empowerment of girls. Along with serving a Gambian Feast, they will describe their adventures, including the memorable "naming ceremony" they participated in. Gambian crafts will be provided for purchase (with proceeds to go to Starfish International)

**September 12** - Theme: "Breakfast with John King" from First Christian Church. Meal: Breakfast food to be cooked by Murray Christian Fellowship.

**September 26** - Theme: "Gambia Night" with Ann Thornton and Nina Natividad from First Christian Church. Meal: A Gambian meal prepared by Ann and friends.

## Music Notes

*Submitted by Kate Tombaugh*

**Mark your calendar for these two Sunday AM service dates:**

December 2: FPC's Chancel Choir presents its Christmas cantata, directed by Kate Tombaugh with guest musicians.

December 9: FPC's youth present a lightly-staged Christmas cantata, directed by Murray newcomer and soprano, Kelsey Blanco.

More details to come!

### Hymn Requests this Fall

Please take a moment to write down your hymn requests on the notepad provided in the lobby. Any previous requests have been catalogued and already inserted into our church services through mid-September. You can also email requests to me at my email address: [kate@katetombaugh.com](mailto:kate@katetombaugh.com)

I am taking this fall to research options for a supplemental hymn source, to use in conjunction with our standard blue hymnal during the Sunday AM service; polling your musical "favorites" helps me in determining what option might be best for our congregation.

Yours in service, Kate

## Youth Group

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

### September Schedule:

September 5: 5:30 p.m. Youth Group at First Presbyterian Church

September 19: 5:30 p.m. Youth Group at First Christian Church

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



# Fish Fry

September 29, 2018

The cat's out of the bag--er--the fish, that is! You are invited to join us for a good old-fashioned fish fry at First Presbyterian Church! It will be a potluck meal; Ralph and Cheryl Pittman will provide the fish and together we will provide the rest!



3:00 p.m. Gathering      4:00 p.m. Meal

A sign-up sheet will be available on the "sign-up table" soon!

## Thank You...

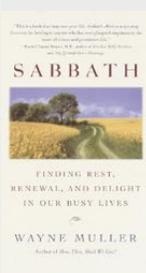
I feel truly blessed that the congregation has included me in their prayers as I recover from hip surgery. The cards from the Congregational Care committee warmed my heart and brightened every day. Thank you for embracing me and including me in the church family. My recovery is progressing, I'm back at work, and things are good. Hip Hip, Hooray! --Vicki Jo Valentine

I wanted to say a big thank you to all who helped contribute to her Italy trip! It was the most influential musical experience I've ever had and none of it would have been possible without you all! I am so thankful for my time there and everything I've learned! Please feel free to contact me, I would love to tell you about my trip in more detail! If you would like to view my favorite pictures from my trip, please visit this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bfsFYWJTcLPML3AS-oeZD4KUM1oIy2o> Thank you so much to all of you again for making this trip a possibility! I love you all to pieces and am so thankful for everyone! --Jenny Rea

## Head & Heart Update

*Submitted by Ken Wolf*

The next meeting of Head & Heart will be held on Thursday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m. We will complete our discussion of Wayne Mueller's Sabbath, covering the final three "sections" of the book. Newcomers are always welcome to join us. Please note the earlier meeting time this month.



## Clerk's Corner

*Submitted by Carol Allen*

Stated Session Meeting

August 9, 2018

Session Actions

- Received Ron and Laura Ken Hoffman into active membership
- Transferred Greg and Jadie Mayes' membership to the Catonsville Presbyterian Church, Catonsville, MD
- Moved David Madewell's membership to Western Kentucky Presbytery after his ordination on July 15, 2018
- Removed membership for the following per their request – Victor Cook, Elizabeth Johnson, Brenda and Gary Marquardt, and Jim and Trudy McFarland
- Dropped membership for the following – Jim Barnett, Edward Baust, Joe and Gail Baust, Keith and Mary Burditt, Jim and Mary Ellen DeBoer, Josh Howe, Lee Kem Hundley, Ken Jesse and Kelly Wezner, Linda Murphy, Nancy and Bob Pople
- Approved the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Its Procedures
- Appointed Patsy Chaney and Val Heath to serve as Session's members on the Elder Nominating Committee

## Financial Report

*Submitted by George Kipphut*

Thank you to all who have kept up with their pledges and offerings during the summer months. If you would like a statement of your year-to-date contributions, please contact the Church Office.

2018 General Fund Income as of August 28 - \$121,456

2018 General Fund Expenses as of August 28 - \$125,277

*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.*



Reminder: Do not be deceived! This job jar, while certainly humble in its appearance, has a mighty purpose! Do you have something that you've been meaning to tackle, but are perhaps unable to do it? Well, we want to help! Please drop your "need" into this job jar, and we will contact you to with the purpose of getting it done! Taking care of each other's needs is top priority, and we have plenty of folks with wonderful skills who can perform a variety of tasks, such as: light yard work; light repairs; cleaning windows; typical household maintenance; computer know-how; smartphone know-how; email know-how; social media know-how, etc. Drop your need in the jar and let us help you!

## September Birthdays

Lucy Mitchell, Sept. 1  
Dawn Gaskin, Sept. 8  
Barbara Conley, Sept. 10  
Sid Martin, Sept. 10  
Luke Crawford, Sept. 12  
Kathie Fleming, Sept. 13  
Paul Shaw, Sept. 23  
Ethelyn Loberger, Sept. 26  
Carol Jean Lewis, Sept. 27

## September Anniversaries

Cheryl & Ralph Pittman, Sept. 6  
Maribeth & Luke Crawford, Sept. 8  
Janine Kruger & Tom Jenkins, Sept. 15  
Kathie & Don Fleming, Sept. 29



## *Prayer Concerns*

*“Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.*

Jeremiah 29:12

## **Church Members and Regular Attendees**

Dennis Mills

Recovery from carpal tunnel surgery (home)

Deanna Wolf

Recovery from surgery, infection and pulled muscle/ligament

Harry Conley

Recovery from knee surgery (home)

Jerry Stanley

Recovery from back surgery (home)

Family of Barbara Simons

Pat Bolton	5 bulging back discs
Margaret Boone	Medical issues
Dan Moore	Passing of wife, Rosemary
Lanette Thurman	Passing of husband, Bill
Eva Hopkins	Strength and recovery
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
Jo Martin	Heart problems

## Family and Friends of the Congregation

Courtney, Davey and Willow Fall	New Parents
Beth Jones (Tanner's mother)	Diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer
Jenny Rea's Father	Recovery, suspected mini stroke
Kathy Frederick (Eric's mother)	Recovery from knee-replacement surgery
Mandy Brogan and Family	Passing of Mandy's grandmother
Family of Linda	
Debbie Maclin	Lymphoma
Baby Lily and mother, Dannie (friends of the Howes)	Premature birth
Harlan Silas (Karen Burnett's grandson)	Born prematurely, NICU
Kelly Long (Rocky and Terry's son)	Recovery
Hubert Stroud (Kathy Stroud's father in law)	Hospice care
J.C. Hobbs & family (Marcie Hobbs' son)	Divorce
Rita Hendon (George Cochran's aunt)	Cancer recurrence
Janie Green (Andrew's wife)	Blindness due to swollen optic nerve

Glen Davis (Andrea Howe's father)	Health issues
Mason	Injured student from Marshall County
Parkland Florida and Marshall County	Victims and Families
Sonia Fall (Pastor Renee's family)	Pulmonary fibrosis
Justine Ostlund	Recovery from stroke
Jana Maxlow (Dave Howe's friend)	Breast Cancer
Julie Stone (Andrea French's aunt)	Breast Cancer, radiation treatments, suspected neuropathy
Sherry (Sue Cochran's sister)	Health issues and loss of son, Troy
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)	Complications due to osteoporosis and severe macular degeneration