

# 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

Although we all know this in our hearts, Thanksgiving brings the idea to the forefront: relationships are the most important human endeavor. Whether relationships are of blood kin or a kin group of our own making; or whether they are relationships with friends and kindred spirits; or whether they are the relationships formed within a community of faith, one thing is certain—communion between people and communion that exists between humans and the Divine—is God inspired. It is what the writers of Genesis are highlighting when they say that God created humans in God's image and that God took evening walks in the garden with Adam and Eve.

Trinitarian theology points to the idea that the communion that exists between God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit is perfect and complete within itself. The Divine has no need of anything more. I wonder though, did God create only for our sake or did God also reap some benefit from communion with human beings? Since I do not know the mind of God, we cannot answer that definitively, but I like to think that we offer God some measure of satisfaction in the relationship (at least when we are at our human best).

God must certainly weep over the horrors that humanity is capable of however. As I write this article Americans have just been through the mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue where 11 lost their lives and others cling to life. That would have been tragic enough but more than that happened. Two African-Americans died in Kentucky when a racist gunman opened fire in a Kroger. The gunman chose the Kroger after he could not gain entry to a black church because the doors were locked. That was not all. Bombs were mailed to a

## Join Us!



### Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday  
Morning at 7 a.m.

Nov 7, Hih Burger

Nov 14, Martha's

Nov 21, Rudy's

Nov 28, Cracker Barrel



### Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

Nov 1, The Keg

Nov 8, Tom's Grille

Nov 15, Crossroads

Nov 29, Cracker Barrel

number of prominent Americans earlier in the week. Thankfully none of them exploded. What are we to make of these events and how might we turn the tide of our public life such that needless acts of violence like these no longer occur? The analysis and derivative answer will no doubt be complex.

Studies point to changes in our social life due to social media outlets like Facebook, Instagram, twitter, Snapchat, and all the rest as bearing some of the responsibility for the breakdown of human community. I heard a recent fact on the news that suicide is up 70% for teenage girls in large part due to the effects of social media. It seems that teenage girls post things and then wait with bated breath to see how many "likes" they receive as a result. Body image, their standing within their individual peer group, as well as interactions with the opposite sex are all adversely affected by social media to some degree.

Therefore I have come to a conclusion about my granddaughter, Willow. I think we will just move the whole family to some isolated cabin in the mountains (where there is no cell service) and live off the land until she is college age. What do you mean that's not feasible?? All kidding aside, what are we to do about this very complex problem? In all honesty I'm not sure, but I can't help but think that religious communities hold part of the answer. The church, synagogue, mosque, ashram (any type of faith community) are some of the last social institutions where true human community is fostered. Certainly for the church, community, is its core value. Scripture attests to this fact when it quotes Jesus as saying: "Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I will be also." The early church that lived together and held all things in common also pointed to the crucial role that community played within the faith.

Perhaps it is right now, in the digital age, that the church, as well as other faith groups, have their best chance at a comeback. Although social media touts that it brings more people together than anything ever has before, the sad truth of the matter may point to the opposite proposition: that social media has been the single most corrosive agent to true community than anything else in history, except perhaps the Plague! That's my armchair thesis anyway, and I think research is beginning to point in that direction.

Be aware, however, that cultivating community in the church is everyone's responsibility. If you do not feel you are experiencing the church as a community where friendships and bonds are established, then you may need to ask yourself

—what have I done to see to it that connections are made and fostered? We each have a responsibility in the endeavor to some degree or another.

Let us remember how important community is to the church and to humanity as a whole. Let us especially remember how important it is for our children and grandchildren. Our future hope, our very existence, rests on humanity's ability to care about one another with empathy, compassion, sympathy, friendship, and genuine regard.

Shalom, Renee



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

## Presbyterian Women

*Submitted by Shirley Latto*

Presbyterian Women met October 1 for a Brown Bag Lunch and business meeting. Several items that were carried over from the previous meeting were discussed, as well as plans for Holly Berry. First to be addressed was the February 5, 2019 evening meeting of "Open Your Hearts to Women in Need." Please note the correct date is Tuesday, February 5, 2019 from 6:00-7:30 p.m., with a meal provided and also a nursery for those with little ones.

We have one more Bread Making Workshop left on Friday, November 2, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. We welcome all women and men who wish to volunteer for this special annual tradition at First Presbyterian Church.

On Sunday, November 18, you will see a school age child's back pack displayed in the narthex, and Cheryl Pitman will speak to us about the Back Pack Program and how all of us can help this year. Due to very strict guidelines regarding not only the ingredients and types of packaging, the size is a very important factor because everything must fit into the child's backpack. Remember also, that some of the children and their backpacks are very small. Consequently, we are requesting your kind and loving donations be monetary rather than specific items. All who wish to help bag the items are welcome and the dates and times are as follows:

Wednesday, December 5 with set up at 12:00 noon and packing at 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12 with set up at 12:00 noon and packing at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18 with set up at 12:00 noon and packing at 1:30 p.m.

We are so fortunate to have Cheryl Pitman and Kathie Fleming organizing this and also shopping for all the items. Please let them know how much they are appreciated.

Holly Berry will have a new addition this year due the donation of collectibles and artifacts made by Cindy Barnett's parents. We will also be selling fresh-roasted Cafe Justo coffee, the perfect gift for your loved ones this Christmas season. The Tea Room will be hosted by the FPC Men and, of course, many delicious items will be available for sale there as well as all the wonderful items available for purchase in the fellowship hall.



Murray Calloway County  
Need Line

## Need Line Referrals

*Submitted by Andrea French*

Thanks to the generosity of our amazing members, our Pastor's Discretionary balance has been replenished and we are back in the business of accepting Need Line referrals. Our goal is to be able to conserve our funds over the next few months so that we will still be able to provide heating assistance during the extra-cold months of December through February. We are incredibly thankful for our members who have given from their resources to help others in need! Please know your gifts have blessed so many families. Our monthly totals for the year 2018 read as

follows:

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	\$1,072.52	14 units of service
July	\$1,233.66	15 units of service
August	\$1,225.23	19 units of service
September	\$560.66	11 units of service
October	\$800	15 units of service

# Holly Berry Bazaar

*Submitted by Kathie Fleming*

**Holly Berry Bazaar Saturday, November 10, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Holly Berry is right around the corner and we are well underway with our preparations! This is a recap of information you have already been given, but an effort to remind all of us of the coming of this huge event in our church. Sign up sheets have been posted in the narthex. Please sign up for your favorite areas in which to work. Remember, it takes us all to make this successful and allow us to be of service in our community!



**We need help with the following items before our event:**

- Final Roll Workshop November 2 from 8:30 – 12:30 a.m.
- Baking/freezing items at home for the bake sale
- Gathering items for the Attic Treasures sale
- Helping us set up on Friday, November 9
- Please bring in baked goods and Attic Treasures items from 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- Pricing items
- Preparing items for the Tea Room

**We need help with the following items the day of our event:**

- Please arrive by 7:00 a.m.
- Door greeters
- Men to help prepare/serve breakfast in the Kitchen
- Working at the Bake Sale tables – rolls and breads, pies and cakes, cookies
- Cleaning breakfast tables
- Attic Treasures Room
- Post-event clean, up and taking down decorations and tables

It is a lot of work, we all know, but great fellowship is so important in the life of our church and our ability to fund backpack sacks and other denominational obligations. And, don't forget, many people in our community tell us that Holly Berry is their favorite way to kick off the holidays!

If you have any questions, you may contact either Cheryl Pittman (270) 768-7041 or Kathie Fleming (270) 759-1145.

## FPC Men Invited to Serve Breakfast at Holly Berry

*Submitted by Harry Conley*

In keeping with tradition, I invite all FPC men to work in the kitchen for our annual Christmas Bazaar. Please show up in costume (with festive apron and hat) and on time as usual! To any man in the church who has not done this before, it is a truly rewarding experience and the pay is incredible. Please join us!

## Korean Church to Celebrate 7 Years

*Submitted by Andrea French*

The Korean Murray Areumdaun Woori Church will be celebrating its seven year anniversary as a church on Sunday, November 11. In the Korean tradition ordination and installation of ruling elders takes place in two separate services. They, as should the rest of us, regard ordination as distinctly important and therefore perform the rite in two worship services. They rejoice in the fact that new people have stepped forward to answer the call to service in the church. And we rejoice with them. They have invited our congregation to celebrate with them on Nov. 11 at 2:00.

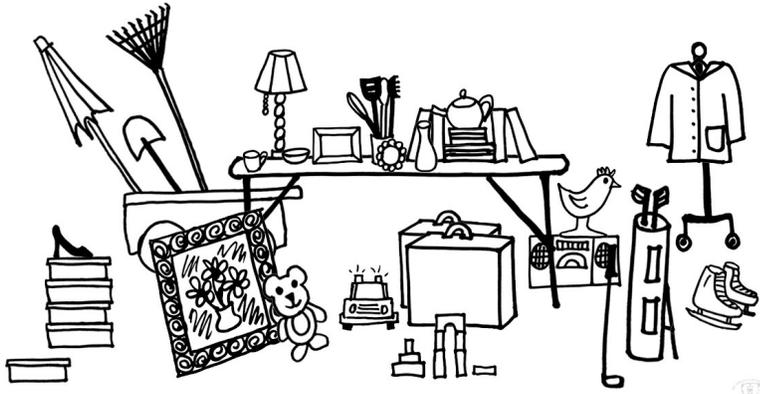


### Beth Belote Circle

The Beth Belote Circle will meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, at Debbie Burgess's home, 1710 Audubon. Ann Royalty will present an experience that has deepened her faith. Newcomers are welcome.

### McKenzie-Moore Circle

The Dorothy McKenzie-Moore Circle will meet on Monday, November 12, at 1:00 p.m. in the session room at FPC. Our study this year is "Twelve More Women of the Bible," which includes a book and an accompanying DVD that we watch during our sessions. Newcomers are always welcome!



## Attic Treasures

*Submitted by Val Heath*

It's time to look for your special treasures to bring to our Attic Treasures Sale.

Antiques, holiday items, linens, dishes and jewelry are always popular. We will also have a table for international items this year, information on mission projects we

support, as well as coffee for sale from Cafe Justo.

Please bring your PRE-PRICED items to the session room between 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday, November 9. Please contact Val Heath with any questions at (270) 925-6067.



## Soup for the Soul

*Submitted by Ann Stanley*

Our next time to host Soup for the Soul will be on Monday, November 19. If you are interested in helping us prepare and serve the meal that evening, please text or call Ann Stanley at (270) 293-7049.

## Worship Committee

*Submitted by Patsy Chaney*

The worship committee will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, November 7, at 11:30 a.m. in the Session Room. We will makes plans for our upcoming Advent season. Please bring your calendars and notepads.



## Community Backpack Sacks

*Submitted by Kathie Fleming*

A reminder...Our church is in charge or providing community backpack sacks for the month of December. Packing dates are set for Wednesday, December 5, Wednesday, December 12, and Tuesday, December 18. We welcome the help of any volunteers who would be able to help put the sacks together (assembly line style). Normally we start setting up about 11:30 a.m. and are ready to fill the sacks by 1:00 pm. We are also looking for younger, stronger people who can be

available at 2:00/2:30 p.m., to help us load the boxes into their vehicles and deliver them to their destinations.

The bulk of our funding comes from proceeds from Holly Berry, but your monetary donations are welcome, too! A backpack will be placed in the narthex to receive your donations. Due to dietary restrictions and safety precautions, it is easier for PW members to purchase the food items; they are knowledgeable about the program regulations. We will do the purchasing on Tuesday, November 13.

The more helpers we have, the quicker we are done. Thanks for putting these dates on your calendar.

If you have any questions, you may contact either Cheryl Pittman (270) 768-7041 or Kathie Fleming (270) 759-1145



Attention Families with Young Children!

## **KIDS' NIGHT OUT at First Presbyterian Church**

**Friday, November 16, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Friday, December 7, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

(Because we all need a break from adults)

For our children who are in grades: Nursery through Fifth Grade

**Please sign up now to reserve your spot!**

**Movies! Games! Pizza! No Parents!**



**Save the Date!**  
Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Held On:  
**Thursday, December 20, 2018**  
From 12:30-5:30 p.m. at FPC

## **Wednesday Night Live: November**

*Submitted by Debbie Batteiger*

**November 14 at 5:30 p.m.**

**First Christian Church**

### **Martinmas and Christmas Preparation for Families in Need**

This year FCC and FPC will each be adopting a family. Gifts can be brought to this gathering (although the families to receive the gifts will do their own gift wrapping). We will be filling "Bags of Kindness" made by Celeste McAllister. Lists will be available for items to be placed in them. Christmas crafts will be available to be made, to be given along with Christmas cards for people in the nursing home. The meal will be provided by Shirley Latto and Ann Thornton.

**November 28 at 5:30 p.m. ~ Wednesday Night Live,**

**First Christian Church**

### **Mental Health Awareness Night**

Brenda Benson and Janice Morgan of the Murray chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and Dr. Michael Bordieri, Murray State University Psychology professor and psychologist, will talk about what it's like to get a mental health screening, where and how it is done; why it is important if behavior is affecting a person's life; and recommended therapies for common mental health issues, including anxiety and depression. Information about NAMI, Bridges Family Center, and the Murray State University Counseling Center will also be available. The meal will be provided by Shirley Latto and Ann Thornton

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 3 people or more will only have to pay at the most \$15.

## Little Bags of Kindness for Youth in Foster Care

*Submitted by Debbie Batteiger, FCC*

We enjoyed hearing Crystal Dillard's presentation on Foster Care at Wednesday Night Live on October 17. We learned that many children and youth are placed into foster care with only the clothes on their backs. Therefore, we are seeking donations of basic essentials for children from birth through the age of 18, for when they arrive at their new foster home or foster care facility. If you would like to help provide a "Little Bag of Kindness" for a foster child, please bring the following items to our Wednesday Night Live event on November 14 (or you may also bring them to either church if you are not able to attend).

Please state on a piece of paper in the bag the size of the underwear and socks and whether for a boy or girl so that the bag can be given to the appropriate child/youth. The dimensions of the bags are 10 x 10 inches.

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Comb (boy)
- Small hairbrush (girl)
- One or two pairs of underwear
- One or two pairs of socks
- Small stuffed animal (e.g., beanie baby)
- OPTIONAL: Walmart gift card (up to \$25) for additional items they might need

## Youth Group

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

### November Schedule:

**November 7** 5:30 p.m. Youth Group at First Christian Church

**November 14** No Youth Group (Wednesday Night Live at First Christian Church instead)

**November 21** No Youth Group (evening before Thanksgiving)

**November 28** No Youth Group (Wednesday Night Live at First Christian Church instead)

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



**UKIRK Murray State**  
*a Ministry Open to All*

## MOTA Calendar

[Follow MOTA on Facebook!](#)

**November 6** Coffee shop night

**November 13** Thanksgiving with MOTA adopted parents

**November 20** Fire pit at Lisa's house

**November 27** Care packages for families in critical care

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.

## Head & Heart Update

*Submitted by Ken Wolf*

At our meeting in October, we worked, challenged, laughed and prayed our way through the "Wisdom" section of Sabbath by Wayne Mueller. We have only one section left—the one on "Consecration" and will finish that at our November meeting on the 15th at FPC—6 pm.

We decided to ask everyone who comes to share with the group their favorite idea, spiritual insight, passage, or blessing from Sabbath. Even if you have only read part of this rich book, feel free to come, listen, and share with us on November 15.

## And We're Off! Cranberry Sauce Drive Has Begun

The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce the start of our annual Cranberry Sauce Drive for Need Line's Christmas Basket program. Our church has pledged to send 300 cans this year. Please consider picking up a few extra cans this month when you are grocery shopping, and bring them to the collection area in the Church lobby. The final day cans may be brought to Church is Sunday, December 2. Thank you all for your support of this special program.

## Alternative Christmas Gift Market: Coming Soon!

*Submitted by Deanna Wolf*

The Alternative Christmas Gift Market will again be offered through the Outreach Committee. Here's your opportunity to purchase meaningful gifts for some of the toughest people on your list. We will soon have a Christmas catalog of charities from which you can choose to make a charitable contribution in their name. It's the gift that gives twice! We will offer a variety of choices, so you can pick the one that would be most meaningful to your giftee. More information to come shortly, but in the meantime, be thinking about how Alternative Christmas Gift Market can help make your holiday shopping a little easier this year!



## Renee and Jerry's Annual Open House

*Submitted by Renee Meyer*

**Saturday, December 22**

**from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m**

You are invited to attend our annual Open House, which will be held on Saturday, December 22, at our home, 631 Oaks Country Club Road. Please come hungry! There will be food, desserts, and Renee's famous Wassail! Stay

for as long as you would like. This is our gift to you, so please do not ask us if you can bring anything for it—the answer is NO! All you need to bring is you!

## Clerk's Corner

*Submitted by Carol Allen*

Stated Session Meeting October 11, 2018

Action by Session:

- Approved the proposed budget for 2019 of \$191,787 with no staff raises
- Named Patsy Chaney to serve as chairman of the Elder Nominating Committee for the Class of 2021
- Returned Gail and Joe Baust to active membership per their request

## Financial Report

*Submitted by George Kippbut*

**2018 General Fund Income as of October 26 - \$152,745**

**2018 General Fund Expenses as of October 26 - \$156,302**

If you would like a statement of your year-to-date contributions, please contact the Church Office or the Treasurer.

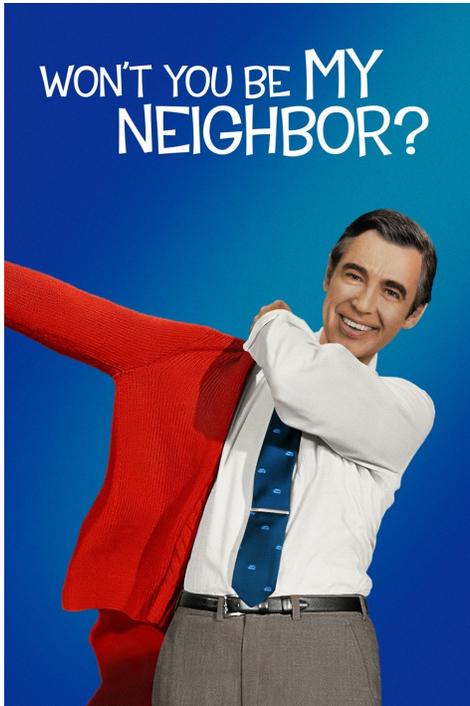
### November Birthdays

Bev Reuter, November 3  
Ann Stanley, November 8  
Jamie Helton, November 12  
Zach Burgess, November 14  
Gregg Heath, November 15  
Terry Holmes, November 15  
Terri Long, November 17  
Ross Meloan, November 18  
Joe Paul Dean, November 22  
Chris Mitchell, November 25  
Leah Jenkins, November 26  
Robin Holmes, November 28



### November Anniversaries

Ann & Jerry Stanley, November 6  
Joan & Whitey Adams, November 7



## Faith and Film Viewing of

**Won't You Be My Neighbor? (2018)**

**Thursday, November 29, 6:30 p.m.**

**at First Christian Church**

**Followed by discussion over snacks**

For over 30 years, Fred Rogers, an unassuming minister, puppeteer, writer and producer, was beamed daily into homes across America. In his beloved television program, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, Fred and his cast of puppets and friends spoke directly to young children about some of life's weightiest issues, in a simple, direct fashion. There hadn't been anything like Mr. Rogers on television before and there hasn't been since.

--Amazon Description



## 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 surgeries

Deanna Wolf

Recovery from surgery, infection and pulled muscle/ligament

Jerry Stanley	Undergoing testing for extreme shortness of breath
Margaret Boone	Medical issues
Eva Hopkins	Strength and recovery
Sue Cochran	Health issues
Warren Thomas	Home
Paul Shaw	Declining health due to Parkinson's Disease
Mary Lynn Christensen	Alzheimer's, at Brookdale
Sal Matarazzo	Congestive heart failure

## **Family and Friends of the Congregation**

Family of Barbara Clark	Former voice teacher and mentor to Maribeth Crawford, Tana Field, Jenny Rea
Thelma Clark (Melinda Wall's co-worker)	Passing of her son, Chris
Beth Jones (Tanner's mother)	Recovery from surgery, breast cancer
Debbie Maclin	Lymphoma
Rita Hendon (George Cochran's aunt)	Cancer recurrence
Janie Green (Andrew's wife)	Blindness, seeing doctor in Louisville,
Glen Davis (Andrea Howe's father)	Health issues
Sonia Fall (Pastor Renee's family)	Pulmonary fibrosis
Jana Maxlow (Dave Howe's friend)	Breast Cancer
Julie Stone (Andrea French's aunt)	Recovery from breast cancer and treatments
Sherry (Sue Cochran's sister)	Health issues and loss of son, Troy
Terri Prince	Lung cancer and chemo
Sandy Cunningham (Pastor Renee's mother)	Severe macular degeneration