

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, Lindsay Crafton

Custodian: Monte Fisher

Office Hours:

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

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Women

Submitted by Shirley Latto

The year 2018 has been busy and productive for Presbyterian Women and we are looking ahead to more events that serve our own community and our global community as well. October opened the holiday season for us at First Presbyterian of Murray, and we put our plans into action. The Fall Gathering of PW was held at Highland Presbyterian Church in Hopkinsville, on October 20, and children's books were collected for donation to children under the age of 10. It was decided that we would host the Spring Gathering of PW in 2020, to be held here in Murray at First Presbyterian.

Next on our list was the Holly Berry Bazaar and Bake Sale and the smell of yeast rolls baking filled the air of Murray! On November 10, we opened the doors of First Presbyterian to people waiting to enjoy another morning in the Tea Room and shop for delicious cookies, breads, pies, cakes, jams, jellies and any number of homemade treats. This year was another success for this event that represents the love and generosity of the Presbyterian Women who work to bring this about. Our thanks also go the gentlemen who serve in the Tea Room.

From the proceeds of Holly Berry, the Back Pack program was funded again this year. This provides food for children who are identified as at-risk for hunger in both our city and county school systems. From our church, this program has been headed by Cheryl Pitman and Kathie Fleming, who quietly shop for the food, organize, and complete this huge task each year. Please remember Cheryl and Kathie (Ralph and Don) in your

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday
Morning at 7 a.m.

Jan 2, Cracker Barrel

Jan 9, Crossroads

Jan 16, Hih Burger

Jan 23, Martha's

Jan 30, Rudy's



Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

Jan 3, Applebee's

Jan 10, Panera Bread

Jan 17, Garden Cafe

Jan 24, Mr. B's

Jan 31, Dumplin's

prayers.

Our upcoming event is something we are looking forward to and invite all women to join us: on February 5, 2019, our "Open Your Heart to Women in Need" dinner and dessert get-together will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The nursery will be open for women who have little ones. Please join us and bring an item that can be given to the Gentry House. Feminine items, such as personal hygiene products, shampoo, deodorant, etc. will be greatly appreciated.

Collection Plate Counters

Submitted by Todd Wright

Happy New Year fellow Members and Congregants!

Looking ahead, a number of us find ourselves about to assume roles of leadership within the church, some of us for the very first time; others (like myself) are looking to continue serving in various support functions, be they as committee members, collection plate/money counters, liturgists, etc...

In this time and spirit of servanthood, I'm making an appeal for several willing members to help process the collection plate for at least the 2019 calendar year, and beyond if you so wish.

For those of you unfamiliar with the procedure: every Sunday after worship, one member of the counting team joins up to process the collection with whomever on Session is serving as 'Elder-of-the-Month' for that month.

The nice thing about this arrangement - from a counting team viewpoint - is that the more team members we have to spread over the month, the fewer Sundays there are per person. Most of the times it's worked out where we each were responsible for just one Sunday a month; the more team members we have, though, means more and more of us will be able to skip a month before we are called to count again.

At this point, I'd like to extend many thanks and much appreciation to Melinda Wall, who has served two consecutive terms (6 yrs.) as a trustee and has been a part of the counting team. Thank you, Mel, for all that servanthood you've given! As a former pastor of mine would have said: 'The pay may be non-existent, but the benefits are heavenly!!'

On hand to continue serving into 2019 are Cindy Barnett,

Luke Crawford, and myself. Thank you Cindy and Luke!

While such commitments are appreciated, we (in regards to the counting team) feel it best from this point forward to consult with each team member at the end of each calendar year as to whether or not they'd like to continue on for the next calendar year, or perhaps take a year or two off.

Indeed, perhaps they might conclude one particular form of servant-hood and/or begin another.

And while the main body of this text was composed with the counting team in mind, it certainly applies to any and all aspects of what makes our church run. For example: as a member of the Worship Committee, I can tell you we are always ready to welcome new liturgists, ushers, helpers for communion prep/clean-up, etc...

I'm certain every Session member (who also serve as a committee chair) will tell you the same thing: they need more help in fulfilling their committee duties. And as outlined above, the more folks we have pitching in here and there, the more we can get done with less time and effort.

Thank you all for your time and consideration in this regard, and let's have a blessed year together.

Wednesday Night Live

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer

January 9, 2019

5:30 p.m. Meal; 6:00 p.m. Presentation

"Peru Night"

First Christian Church

Rose and Jennifer Donnelly had the privilege of traveling to Peru. Come and hear about their experiences and try some Peruvian food!

January 23, 2019

5:30 p.m. Meal; 6:00 p.m. Presentation

"Strategies for Talking about Race"

First Presbyterian Church

Dr. Diane Nititham, assistant professor of sociology at MSU, will lead us in a discussion entitled: "Strategies for Talking about Race." Dr. Nititham teaches classes about diversity, race, class, etc.

Talking about race and ethnicity is not very easy. We cannot change our attitudes or the language we use unless we are made aware of the ways such language and/or attitudes inhibit productive dialogue about race. This will be a consciousness raising event. The hope is that we will begin to have the necessary tools that will help us to eradicate the scourge of racism wherever it is found.

Need Line Referrals

Submitted by Andrea French

As we close out 2018, we are reminded how incredibly thankful we are for our members who have given from their resources to help others in need! Our 2018 totals for assistance provided to folks referred to us from Need Line 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	\$1072.52	14 units of service
July	\$1233.66	15 units of service
August	\$1225.23	19 units of service
September	\$560.66	11 units of service
October	\$800	15 units of service
November	\$756.57	13 units of service
December	\$754.15	14 units of service
Annual Total:	\$11,043.24	182 units of service

Friends-In-Faith

Submitted by Roger Weis

Friends-In-Faith just celebrated its eleventh year of serving monthly communion at Hickory Woods with eight attendees. Friends-In-Faith was founded by First Presbyterian Church members Whitey Adams, Betty Shepperson, and Roger Weis, to provide monthly communion to seniors who might not have the opportunity to participate in communion. Three alternating ministers are involved in the actual communion service: Renee Meyer of First Presbyterian Church, Jim Stahler of First Methodist Church, and Ruth Ragovin from First Christian Church. Prior to communion, individuals are encouraged to tell stories from their past, and over the last eleven years the stories have been rich with history, memories and humor. The service is

regularly offered the second Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at Hickory Woods. The residents love visitors, so if you have an hour to spare or just want to know more about this ministry, please contact Roger Weis at rweis@murraystate.edu or (270) 227-3700.

Soup for the Soul

Submitted by Ann Stanley & Marcie Johnson

Our next opportunity to serve at Soup for the Soul is Monday, January 21. We are running two shifts. The first shift is from 2:15-4:30 p.m. That consists of preparing the evening meal and beginning to serve. The second shift is from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and that consists of serving and clean-up. We would like to have at least four people plus one leader per shift. Marcie Johnson, (270) 853-0128, will be coordinating the early shift, and Ann Stanley, (270) 293-7049, will be coordinating the second shift. Please call or text and let us know if you are able to help out that day. We welcome anyone's help, even if you haven't worked there previously. Thank you for your consideration!

MOTA Calendar

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- January 15** Welcome Back Party
- January 22** Ascher's Birthday Party
- January 29** Planning Advertising Strategies

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.

Beth Belote Circle

The Beth Belote Circle will begin the new year on Thursday, January 3, with a presentation from Lisa Polivick on an experience that has influenced her faith. We meet at Debbie Burgess's home, 1710 Audubon Drive, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Debbie always treats us to tempting appetizers and relaxing wine; the conversation is thoughtful and engaging; the circle members are welcoming--so come warm up with us!

McKenzie-Moore Circle

The Dorothy McKenzie-Moore Circle will meet on Monday, January 14, 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.

Christian Education: Sunday School 2019

Submitted by Bill Stewart

Along with your New Year's resolution of hitting the gym, how about also attending one of our Sunday school classes? We have something to offer everyone:

Youth Classes:

Nursery - Infants to toddlers

God's Big Family - Pre K to 5 grade; We'll continue the Deep Blue youth Bible series.

Youth - 6 to 12 grade; We'll continue our study of the book, "Faith Questions: Politics".

Adult Classes:

Zeteo - We'll continue our study of the Gospel according to Matthew.

Pathfinder's - We'll begin an eight-week video series on the book of Acts.

See you in Sunday school on January the 6 for a REAL WORKOUT!

Thank You

Submitted by Patsy Chaney

As my term on session officially ends this month, I want to thank all of you for the support you've shown our church, especially for your willingness to serve. Many times over the last five years I have asked you to do something to enhance our worship service, and I appreciate all of the times you have said "yes!" To that end, although I will still be around, you no longer have to run and hide from me!

A Note From Your Choir Director

Submitted by Kate Tombaugh

Dear FPC family,

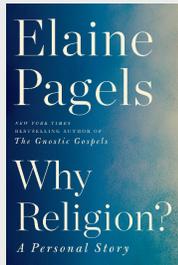
Our family has some bittersweet news to share with you all. Steve has accepted a faculty position at Millikin University in Decatur, IL, starting in the 2019 fall. The move four hours north will place us significantly closer to both sides of our immediate and extended families, but it will mean leaving our home away from home and friends of Murray, MSU, and FPC in the late summer.

I will be staying on as choir director through this season's end and look forward to five more months of tremendous music-making. Also, I will be working with Pastor Renee, Session, and the Personnel Committee to ensure a smooth transition for my successor and the continued success of our music program at First Presbyterian.

In the meantime, Steve and I are grateful for time in the coming months to thank each of you in person for your terrific support and friendship.

With gratitude and love to each of you,

Kate Tombaugh, Steve, and Grace Weimer



Head & Heart Update

Submitted by Ken Wolf

Head and Heart book discussion group will meet on January 24 to discuss Elaine Pagel's new memoir, *Why Religion: A Personal Story* (2018). It exists only in hardback and can be purchased for about \$13 at Amazon. Because this book does not lead itself to being broken into sections to discuss, attendees will want to read the entire book (211 pages) to get the most out of the discussion. It is a powerful story but not a difficult read. Call Ken Wolf if you have questions: 270 293-5502.

Clerk's Corner

Submitted by Carol Allen

Stated Session Meeting

December 13, 2018

Session called a congregational meeting for January 6, 2019 to receive the 2019 budget, approve the pastor's change of call, and elect an elder to replace Morgan Randall.

Financial Report

Submitted by George Kippbut

2018 General Fund Income as of December 21 - \$184,079

2018 General Fund Expenses as of December 21 - \$184,043

Thanks to all who have made pledge payments or donations in December. Donations to be credited to 2018 can be accepted through January 6, 2019 if checks are dated December 31, 2018 or earlier.

GIVE BLOOD
You can make a difference.



**American
Red Cross**

Save the Date!

Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Held On:

Thursday, February 14, 2019

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

January Birthdays

Carleen Belcher, January 1
 Charlie Jenkins, January 4
 Patsy Chaney, January 4
 Juli McClain, January 5
 Marion O'Rourke, January 7
 Joe Belcher, January 12
 Debbie Burgess, January 19
 Kathey Shaw, January 20
 Bill Stewart, January 25



January Anniversaries

Kathey & Paul Shaw, January 24
 Carleen & Joe Belcher, January 27

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

Marcie Hobbs	Loss of father, Fred Blix
Andrea Howe	Broken leg
Barbara Conley	Biopsy
Dennis Mills	Health issues
Deanna Wolf	Recovery
Jerry Stanley	Recovery
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, Spring Creek #129
Sal Matarazzo	Home

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Willow Grace Fall (Renee's grand baby)	RSV (respiratory virus)
Courtney Fall (Renee's daughter)	Anxiety
Family of Fred Blix	
Laura (Terri Long's sister)	Recovery, hiatal hernia surgery
Ayden (Ethelyn Loberger's gr. grandson)	Viral Meningitis, hole in eardrum
Greg Randall (Morgan Randall's father)	Lung cancer, in hospital
Danny (Liz Gillaim's cousin)	Inoperable brain tumor
Family of Billy Mitchell	
Family of George Saunders	
Rev. Russ Ragovin	Surgery recovery
Justine Ostlund	
Bruce Pittman	
Joe (Jenny Rea's father)	Stroke
Family of Zach Sager (Lisa Polivick's niece's husband)	
Rita Hendon (George Cochran's aunt)	Cancer
Beth Jones (Tanner's mother)	Breast cancer
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, surgery at UK Jan. 24
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