

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 Directors: Andrew & Janie 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.

From Pastor Renee's Desk

This coming Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday, which means that the season of Lent is nearly upon us. This year Ash Wednesday is March 6, and we will have a service at Noon. We will not have an evening option this year. The service will last about 20 minutes. I hope you are able to participate in this very meaningful Christian ritual.

As I think about the season of Lent, I struggle to understand this time of the Christian year in a way that is helpful to my own personal journey of faith. If you are like me, you can list your shortcomings as easy as you breathe. I don't know about you, but feeling guilty or inadequate is one of my specialties! As I ponder the season of Lent, I find that my understanding of it is in need of some transformation.

Lent is traditionally a period of reflection, examination, and penitence. In the early church, this period of examination only lasted for two or three days, usually near the end of Holy Week. It wasn't until the Council of Nicaea, in 325 CE, that this period called Lent was extended to a full 40 days. The forty days are symbolic of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, as he communed with God in preparation for his ministry among the people.

In many languages the word for Lent implies, 'forty': Quaresima deriving from quaranta (forty) in Italian; Cuaresma coming from cuarenta in Spanish; Carême deriving from 'quarante' in French. The English word 'Lent' has another, very beautiful derivation. It comes from the Anglo-Saxon (early English) word, meaning to 'lengthen'. Lent comes at a time when the hours or daytime are 'lengthening', as spring approaches, and so

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday
Morning at 7 a.m.

March 6, Rudy's

March 13, Cracker Barrel

March 20, Crossroads

March 27, Hih Burger



Lunch Bunch

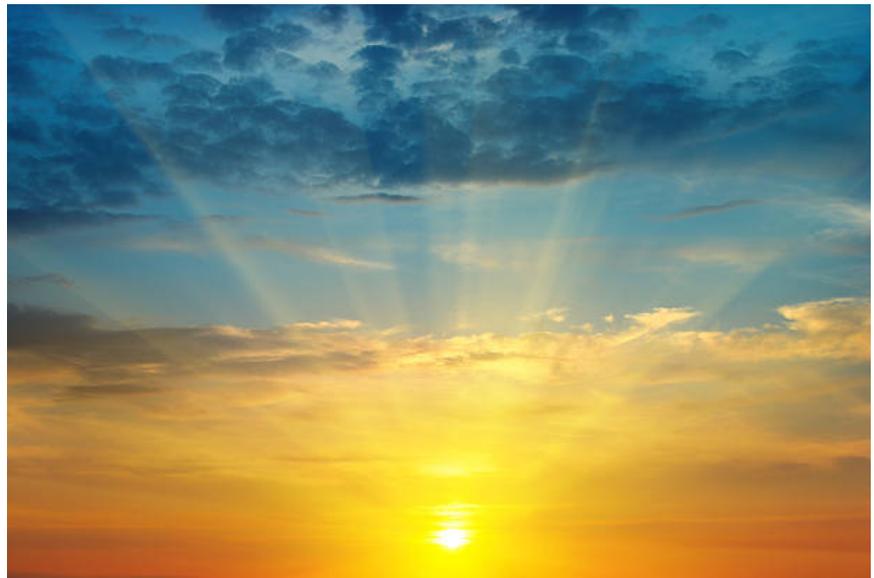
Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

March 7, Tom's Grille

March 14, Crossroads

March 21, Culver's

March 28, Cracker Barrel



it is a time when we, too, can 'lengthen' spiritually, when we can stretch out and grow in the Spirit.

We should not, therefore, place too much emphasis upon our own efforts. Just as the sun was thought to do the work of 'lengthening' the days during early Springtime, so it is the sun – in the sense of God's warmth and light – that does this work in our 'lengthening' and growing in Christ. In the English language, indeed, we have a beautiful play on the words 'sun' and 'son', which are pronounced identically. Just as the sun was seen to do the work of 'lengthening' the days in spring, so it is the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who does the work of 'lengthening' in our spiritual growth. This image provides a comfort for us in our busy, modern world, where hyperactivity can become the norm. Our role during Lent is to cooperate with God's grace and initiatives, in a sense to relax in the presence of God, rather than to force the pace with our own efforts.

So my friends, it is by God's good grace that we grow spiritually. Such growth gives us the ability to love others as Christ loves. Let us look forward to Lent with joyful anticipation as the First Preface to the Mass in Lent states:

Each year you give us this joyful season

when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery

with mind and heart renewed.

You give us a spirit of loving reverence for you, our Father,
and of willing service to our neighbor.

As we recall the great events that gave us a new life in Christ,
you bring to perfection within us the image of your Son.

I pray that you have a Lent filled with peace, love, and grace, such that you have no doubt that you have been visited once more by the Risen Christ.

Shalom, Pastor Renee

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 6 at 12:00 p.m.

We will be offering a mid-day Ash Wednesday service at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6. This service will be held at Noon and will take about 20 minutes.



Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras Party Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church

Submitted by Andrea French

Bring your biggest fork and your stretchiest pants: This is your last chance to get stuffed before the lean days of lent! Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will feature mouth-watering pancakes with the fixin's, bacon, sausage, coffee and juice.

Our friends at First Christian Church will join us in a time of festivity as we wear masks, beads, and celebrate Mardi Gras. If you would like to sign up to be a volunteer for this event, or would like to donate an item for the dinner, please see the sign-up form on the Narthex Table. We look forward to celebrating Mardi Gras with all of you!

MOTA

Submitted by Lisa Polivick

Dear Friends of First Presbyterian,

MOTA has placed a strong emphasis on missions this semester. Please be in prayer for our mission team, which will be traveling to San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala from March 16-23. MOTA members Sarah Locke and Bryant Harrison will be traveling with a group from Paducah,



MINISTRY OPEN TO ALL

New Jersey, and Vermont. Jenna Goggins, the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Paducah, and Jennifer DeMauro will be leading a medical team from Kentucky, New Jersey, and Vermont. This is the same group that Da'Sha Tuck traveled with two years ago. Jenna and Jennifer have had a relationship with the Guatemalan people in this area for over twenty years. Sarah is a registered nurse, and Bryant teaches engineering at Murray State University. Team members will set up a clinic, lead Bible School activities, visit a home for special needs children, and build a house while they are there.

Our church will be sending two extra-large totes of shoes, providing Bible School materials for children, and donating toys to the home for children with special needs. We will also be providing funding (\$2650.00) to build a house for a homeless family. The team was so excited to hear that we had the funds to make this project happen! In addition to this work, we will donate \$360.00 to pay for another year's education of a Guatemalan child we are sponsoring. Sarah and Bryant's travel and housing expenses are covered through church donations and MOTA mission funds. We will not be raising any new funds for this venture. We will be using the donations you so generously made last year to finance the trip that was canceled due to the volcanic eruption.

MOTA students have also participated in three other mission projects this year. We sent toys to a children's hospital and supplies to soldiers deployed overseas at Christmas. We are currently helping refugees who arrive at the U.S. border and are being processed near Las Cruces, New Mexico through Project Oak Tree. This is a volunteer cooperative effort established by seven churches in the Las Cruces area that began in 2014 as numbers of refugees from Central America began to flood the border. The project draws its name from the Old Testament story of three strangers whom Abraham invited to sit beneath an oak tree while he provided them with water, a meal to eat, and rest.

Since June 2018, the churches have sheltered, clothed, and fed more than 1,500 men, women, and children. Volunteers do laundry, cook hot meals, set up and take down cots, and clean showers. A friend of mine, Freida Gupton Adams, is a registered nurse who is working with this ministry in her church. Freida and her family once served as foreign missionaries. She is now retired, and she attends a nondenominational church called "Heart for the World," one of the churches located in Las Cruces that participates in Project Oak Tree. (<https://www.hftw.church>) In addition to providing food and shelter, she also works to care for the sick and acquire prescription medications needed by the refugees.

A desire to work in this area of ministry grew out of the P.B. and J discussions MOTA students had with Episcopalian students last month. Our topic was "Christian Response to the Immigrant and Refugee." As we discussed this subject, we became committed to finding a way to directly help refugees. We sent our first boxes of clothes and toiletries for refugees last week.

The MOTA Fellowship still takes place every Tuesday night at 7:00, and Bible Study is at 9:30 on Sunday mornings at the MOTA House. Ascher and Tesla will continue to provide music before

each worship service at 10:30, and Debbie Burgess will be preparing home-cooked meals so that MOTA students can eat together after church each Sunday. Shelby Grimm is doing a great job as our MOTA intern. We will be continuing our PB and J fellowship with the Episcopalian students, and we will also continue monthly service projects. Thank you for providing students with so much support while they are at Murray State. They are growing in their faith and their love for each other. We appreciate you so much.

Sincerely, Lisa Polivick

MOTA March Calendar

[Follow MOTA on Facebook!](#)

- March 5** Make a care package for Brett! Her birthday is March 21; Service Project
- March 12** Study for midterms and eat dessert!
- March 18-22** MSU Spring Break
- March 26** Service Project

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.



Soup for the Soul

Submitted by Ann Stanley & Marcie Johnson

While FPC's Soup for the Soul workday is several weeks away, it is not too soon to sign up for one of our crews. Marcie Johnson welcomes volunteers for the first shift, from 2:00-4:30, to prepare the meal and begin serving. Ann Stanley heads the second shift, which arrives at 4:30 to continue the meal service and then stays through clean-up (finishing

around 6:30 p.m.)

If you are willing to serve on either crew for our next workday, Monday, March 18, please contact Marcie Johnson or Ann Stanley. Your help will be welcomed; you're likely to enjoy a companionable afternoon or evening with other great FPC volunteers, and this project truly does allow us to live our faith.

Many thanks to Ann and David Royalty, who led the first shift in January when Marcie had a conflict.

PW's Share the Love Event

Submitted by Shirley Latto

Tuesday, February 5 was a rainy night, but that did not keep women of First Presbyterian from gathering in the fellowship hall to enjoy a delicious dinner and excellent company. The evening was planned with the hope of offering our women who work during the day an opportunity to



attend a PW meeting and hear about some of the mission projects that we are currently involved with. Following the practice that began in years past, we brought requested items, especially for women, to be donated to Need Line. The abundance of gifts spoke clearly about the generosity and caring of our Presbyterian Women. These items will be appreciated by many others in our community who are in need. In addition, information about Laundry Love was presented. This is a community ministry that is presently being served by St, John's Episcopal, First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church. This ministry started in Cadiz, and proved to be so beneficial to that community the decision to make an effort to put this program in place here was adopted by the three Murray churches mentioned above. Once

each month one of the three churches is responsible for offering free use of washers and dryers for anyone who needs this service. The first Murray Laundry Love was held in April, 2018. Since that time approximately 135 families have been served. Most of the families hear of this offer through the Family Resource Centers in their child's school. While the estimated cost each month is \$250, this amount varies with the number of families served. Our commitment at FPC would be \$1000, per year and this comes from donations made by our extremely generous and caring congregation. Proof of this devotion to providing for the needs of others by this church came in the form of over \$400 being donated by our Presbyterian women as we gathered for our Share the Love Event. Many thanks go to each of you who have made this mission a success through your donations of money, supplies, volunteering and yes, especially all those quarters!



Beth Belote Circle

The Beth Belote Circle will gather on Thursday, March 7, for a presentation on faith by Carol Allen. We meet at Debbie Burgess's home, 1710 Audubon, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

McKenzie-Moore Circle

The Dorothy McKenzie-Moore Circle will meet on Monday, March 11, 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 to attend! Refreshments provided.

Lenten Thoughts and Prayers

Submitted by Kathie Fleming & FPC Congregational Care

We can never have enough people praying for us! A unique idea that has been practiced for a number of years, at a church in another state, and its success, was put in print form and brought to our attention by one of our members, as a wonderful opportunity to be a special prayer warrior for someone who reaches out for it. Let's do it this year at our church. Lent begins Wednesday, March 6. Starting Wednesday, February 25, we will have available small cards for our congregation to write their names and the general area in which they need extra prayer and support. No need is too big or too small. Your card will be drawn by someone who will be your secret prayer warrior throughout Lent. You may or may not ever know who has held you in their hearts during Lent, but won't it be special to know you have been the recipient of extra dedicated thoughts and prayers in support of your needs?

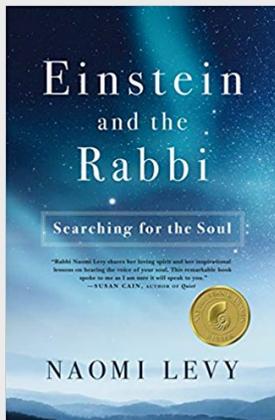
Need Line Referrals

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 ten. Thanks to the generosity of our loving congregation, we've been able to provide the following assistance to date this year:

January	\$821.18	16 Units of Service
February	\$905.50	17 Units of Service

Our Pastor's Discretionary Fund has recently received a significant boost in funds. Our current balance is now \$3,318.72.



Head & Heart Update

Submitted by Ken Wolf

Our next Head & Heart will be held on Thursday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. We will discuss Naomi Levy's, "Einstein and the Rabbi: Searching or the Soul" (Flatiron books, 2017). Those who have read this tell us it has some of the excitement of a detective story involving science and spirituality.

Copies are available from Amazon for between about \$13 to \$17 dollars in paperback, depending upon whether you have Amazon Prime and /or want a new or used book.

Call Ken Wolf if you have questions: (270) 293-5502.



Save the Date!
Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Held On:
Thursday, April 11, 2019
From 12:30-5:30 p.m. at FPC

Wednesday Night Live

March 13, 2019

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

"St. Patricks Day & Irish Potato Night"

at First Christian Church

Wear your Irish Green (even though it is a few days early) and celebrate with friends the great patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick! A potato bar featuring lots of delicious toppings will be served, followed by games and activities. Hosted by Nancy Dycus. Meal provided by Murray Christian Fellowship

March 27, 2019

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

"Care Cards for Spring Creek Residents and Staff"

at First Presbyterian Church

Participants are encouraged to make care cards for the residents of Spring Creek Health Care. You may also write a card to encourage a healthcare worker. Please address your cards with either "Resident" or "Care Worker." I have ordered some cards, but extra card donations would be appreciated. I would also like to donate dolls or stuffed cats/dogs for the residents. People with dementia and Alzheimer's respond very well to dolls and animals. If you would like to donate something for this night, please either bring it to WNL or drop it off at the Church the next time you are there. Thank you, Juli McClain.



Clerk's Corner

Submitted by Carol Allen

Clerk's Corner

Elder Retreat

February 9, 2019

Action taken by Session:

- Janie Green, wife of youth director Andrew Green, was named co-director of youth with no salary.
- Manual of Operations was revised with the mission statement being replaced by the current statement on the cover of the weekly worship bulletin.
- Committee assignments for 2019:

Building and Grounds – Ralph Pittman and Tom Lyford

Campus Ministry – Bill Stewart

Christian Education – Bill Stewart

Church Growth – Maribeth Crawford

Congregational Care/Fellowship – Kathie Fleming

Outreach – Shirley Latto

Personnel/Administration – Ross Meloan

Stewardship & Finance – Debbie Hixon

Worship – Tana Field

- Carol Allen was elected clerk of session, and George Kipphut was elected treasurer

Financial Report

Submitted by George Kipphut

Financial Report

2019 General Fund Income as of Feb 22, 2019 - \$30,713

2019 General Fund Expenses as of Feb 22, 2019 - \$30,239

The MOTA "Souper Bowl" collection on Sunday, February 3 raised \$175 for Murray's Soup for the Soul Ministry. Thank you.

March Birthdays

Kate Tombaugh, March 10
 Terry Foreman, March 12
 Donna Leigh, March 19
 Tom Jenkins, March 20
 Brett Eisenhauer, March 21
 Dave Howe, March 28
 Brittany Hesson, March 29
 Charlotte Gregory, March 31
 Jerry Stanley, March 31



March Anniversaries

Sue & George Cochran, March 12
 Tonie & Tim Belcher, March 19

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

Bill and Susan Stewart

Jo Martin

Sid Martin

Sue and George Cochran

Dan Moore

Brittany Hesson

Marcie Johnson

Kathy and Robin Stroud

Morgan Randall

Barbara Conley

Sue Lyford

Passing of Bill's mother, Laura Stewart

Heart surgery March 11, flu recovery

Hospitalized with complications from diabetes

Passing of Sue's daughter, Susie Taylor

sees doctor again in 3 months

Passing of her boyfriend, Ron Denney

Breast Cancer Treatments

Robin, stroke recovery

Loss of father, Greg Randall

Breast Cancer Treatments

Loss of brother, Tom Miles

Marcie Hobbs	Loss of father, Fred Blix
Deanna Wolf	New hip replacement surgery March 22
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	

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Todd Goselin's mother	Mental illness
Mark Jones (Debbie Hixon's brother in law)	Leukemia and Non-Hodgkins disease
Family of Jack Flagg	
Ben (Ken and Deanna Wolf's grandson)	Upcoming heart tests
Kendrick (Susan Stewart's mother)	Recovery from gallbladder surgery
Bill and Anne Williams (Cindy Barnett's parents)	Care for Bill's Parkinson's disease and dementia
Baby Finn (Family friend of Hoffmans)	Stage 4 cancer, chemotherapy
Delores (Val Heath's Mother)	Broken hip
Danny (Liz Gillaim's cousin)	Inoperable brain tumor
Gwen Wolf (Deanna's friend)	Lung transplant recovery
Family of Billy Mitchell	
Family of George Saunders	
Justine Ostlund	Health concerns
Bruce Pittman	Health complications
Joe (Jenny Rea's father)	Stroke
Rita Hendon (George Cochran's aunt)	Cancer
Beth Jones (Tanner's mother)	Breast cancer treatment
Debbie Maclin	Lymphoma
Sonia Fall (Pastor Renee's family)	Pulmonary fibrosis
Sherry (Sue Cochran's sister)	Health issues and loss of son, Troy
Sandy Cunningham (Pastor Renee's mother)	Severe macular degeneration