

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 month we celebrate the highest holy day of the Christian year, Easter. In one of my previous pastorates we shared in an ecumenical Palm Sunday and sometimes even a Good Friday worship service every year. It was so very interesting to note the differences as a result of what church was in charge of the service. It was hard to tell much difference among the mainline churches (Presbyterian, United Methodist, Disciples of Christ, et.), aside from each's unique creativity in designing the worship service. However, when it was held at the Assembly of God church, things were remarkably different. There was never a recognition of the crucifixion, except to say that Jesus died for our sins. The Good Friday service held at the Assembly's church was a full on Easter service in tone. It was all about the empty tomb. There was a lot of praise music to that effect. In my view, that jump missed an integral piece of the story.

According to the gospel of Mark, Jesus, after having entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, goes to the temple and "when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve." (11:11). It is the next day when Jesus went to the temple and drove out the moneychangers. Why was Jesus so upset? Many people who came to the temple to offer sacrifices could not realistically bring animals with them (most folks came from quite a distance) so they had to purchase sacrificial animals on site. Moneychangers provided a valuable service and that was to exchange Roman coins that had the image of the emperor on them (a "graven image" since Caesar was viewed as divine) for imageless coins used by the Jews. So, the moneychangers were a necessary presence. The

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday
Morning at 7 a.m.

April 3, Martha's

April 10, Rudy's

April 17, Cracker Barrel

April 24, Crossroads



Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

April 4, Mugsy's

April 11, Big Apple

April 18, Jasmine Thai

April 25, Artisan Kitchen

problem was not them so much as what they symbolized: a deep system of oppression and corruption. This system of oppression and corruption was what stirred Jesus' ire. Let me explain how it was oppressive and corrupt.

The Roman governor ruled Judea through the temple authorities whom he, himself, appointed. So long as these temple officials collaborated with Roman authority, they remained in office. They were responsible for collecting the oppressive and economically exploitative taxes sent to Rome. As a result, Jesus' act in the temple was an indictment, a public protest, against what the temple had become. In words that echo the prophet Jeremiah 7:11, it had become "a den of robbers," a robber's cave, a center of injustice and complacent affirmation of God, as the fuller context of Jeremiah 7:1-11 makes clear.

That is what had turned the temple into "a den of robbers." Because of the collaboration of temple authorities with Roman rule, it had become the center of an economically exploitative domination system and thus a center of injustice, as in the time of Jeremiah six centuries earlier. That was not what it was meant to be.

The authorities understood that Jesus's protest and indictment were directed against them. It was too much. As Mark tells the story, it was the last straw. They decide that Jesus must be killed: "When the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching." Before the end of the week, they and the Roman governor found a way to make their plan a reality. It was the end—so they thought.

But as Easter teaches us—nothing, not even death on a cross, has the power to silence the God of Jesus of Nazareth, who loves us then, now, and always. Death does not have the last word. Ever. What does have the last word?—the God of Spirit, who breathes freshly on me, who inspires me to be better, to do better, and to love more. The God who accompanies me along every step of my path on this earth and beyond. That, my friends, is what Easter teaches us.

Shalom,

Pastor Renee



**First
Presbyterian
Church
9:30 a.m.**

Easter Egg Hunt!

Submitted by Susan and Bill Stewart

Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

All children are invited to join us for an indoor Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning! The hunt will begin at 9:30 a.m., before our Easter Breakfast Potluck.

Kids' Night Out

Submitted by Susan and Bill Stewart

Our next Kids' Night Out, hosted by Susan and Bill Stewart, will take place on Friday, April 26, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. This will be the last Kids' Night Out for the school year. Parents/Caregivers: please sign up your children on the sign-up table when the form becomes available. We are looking forward to another fun-filled evening!

Guatemala Mission Trip

Submitted by Sarah Locke

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As you all know, Bryant Harrison and I travelled to Guatemala on a mission trip over spring break with individuals from Western Kentucky, New Jersey, and Vermont. We worked with Promised Land Ministries in San Lucas Tolimán to help paint a special needs school, work in a medical clinic alongside several Guatemalan healthcare professionals, travel to villages to teach Bible school, provide feeding programs, and build a house! Our team accomplished a lot, and while I am extremely proud of that work, that is not what I want to tell you about in this article. (You'll have to come to our presentation to hear more about that – date/time TBA!) Instead, I want to reflect on a few observations I made while in Guatemala. For the sake of space, I have narrowed these down to what I believe are the three most significant:

1. True joy does not come from this world. The smiles on the faces of the sweet Guatemalan people are all the proof I need to know that joy is not dependent on how much you have or how nice of a house you live in. True joy shines from within.



2. Time is relative: we need to slow down and smell the roses. The church service we attended on Sunday was supposed to start at 6:00 pm. At 6:15, we were still the only people in the building. On Monday, I asked what time the medical clinic opened; the doctor just shrugged. On Tuesday, they never even opened the clinic because they were busy helping us with school physicals. No one was worried about the lack of advanced notice they had provided their patients. In fact, none of the Guatemalans ever seemed to get too worried about schedules or time, but somehow, everything seemed to always work out.

Sometimes we are so preoccupied with our busy schedules that we miss out on some of life's greatest pleasures, so take that extra minute to smell the blooming spring flowers. Drink that extra cup of coffee in the morning. Spend that night out with your friends or family. Everything else will still be there when you return.

3. Love does not need to be translated. It is not just a phrase you say to those around you. It is the meal you prepare for your fellow church member who is injured or sick. It is asking how the stressed-out college student is doing and truly listening to their response. It is the smile you give your sweet friend on a bad day or the hug you give the exhausted new mother with the crying baby. Love is action, and actions don't require translation.

Thank you to everyone who has supported MOTA and this mission trip. Thank you for your donations of time and money, your words of encouragement, and most of all, your prayers! I cannot wait to share more stories and pictures from our trip. May God bless you all!

On Sunday, April 28, MOTA will give us a special video presentation of their activities on the Guatemalan mission trip. Please don't miss it!!

[Follow MOTA on Facebook!](#)

MOTA April Calendar

- April 2** Early birthday party for Lisa
- April 13** Hike at Land Between the Lakes
- April 16** Service project and Easter celebration
- April 23** Service project
- April 30** Planning for fall 2019 semester



Save the Date!
Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Held On:
Thursday, June 13, 2019
From 12:30-5:30 p.m. at FPC



You're Invited!

Easter Breakfast Potluck

**Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019
9:45 a.m.**

Beth Belote Circle

Although illnesses led to a cancellation of our March meeting, the Beth Belote Circle is even more eager to meet on Thursday, April 4, when Carol Allen will offer a presentation on an experience that has deepened her faith. We meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Debbie Burgess's home, 1710 Audubon, where Debbie welcomes us with wine, enticing hors d'oeuvres, and plenty of seating around her dining room table. Come join us for a companionable, delicious, and inspiring evening!

McKenzie-Moore Circle

The Dorothy McKenzie-Moore Circle will meet on Monday, April 8, at 1:00 p.m. in the session room at Bev Reuter's home. 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.



Presbyterian Women

Submitted by Shirley Latto

The Presbyterian Women met March 4 for a Brown Bag Lunch to review February's happenings and plan upcoming events. The Share the Love event, held February 5, not only gave us an opportunity to come together with those of us who work during the day, but also gave us an opportunity to contribute to women in our community by donating articles to Need Line. Those attending also gave generously to Laundry Love, which provides an opportunity for families to wash their laundry at no cost once

each month. This is a reflection of the great generosity and compassion of the PW.

The Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering will be held April 11, in Henderson, Kentucky. We will leave from First Presbyterian at 7:15 a.m., and if you would like to attend, please contact Cheryl Pittman. Quilts are always a welcome donation to the Buckhorn Children and Family Services Center!

We will also be hosting a Luncheon for the Choir April 14, right after worship service. Please join us to celebrate and thank all the people who give so greatly of their time and talents for us each Sunday.

Hymn Sing Service to be Held May 19

Submitted by Kate Tombaugh, Director of Music

Mark your calendars: On May 19, the final Sunday before summer schedule kicks in, FPC will be hosting another "Hymn Sing" service: a service mostly dedicated to music, featuring all of our musicians, young and old, and a lot of great hymns and sacred pieces! This is a great day to invite your friends and family to join us in worship.

Murray State University student and future music teacher, Mariah Smith, will be working with our youth to present a couple of pieces, as well as one choral anthem, in which our Chancel Choir and young singers will join forces. Mariah is very excited to be joining us, and will be volunteering her time as a part of a Leadership project for her degree requirements. Kate will be reaching out to parents and Sunday school-Worship and Wonder teachers soon to coordinate times Mariah can visit and teach the music.

There will definitely be something for everyone in this musical and uplifting service, with a couple of nice surprises in store, too!

Any questions can be addressed to our Director of Music, Kate Tombaugh.
kate@katetombaugh.com



It's Spring Clean Up Time!

Submitted by Ralph Pittman

Our annual Spring cleanup day will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 13. Projects include are but not limited to: pruning all the greenery around our church, (except the front--thank you, Bill Stewart, for doing that for us!), completing work at our MOTA house, and other indoor/outdoor items. Everyone is welcome to join us as we clean up our church grounds for spring.

There is something to do for all ages and abilities!



Living Lord's Supper

Maundy Thursday, April 18

7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church

The Living Lord's Supper is a dramatic re-enactment of Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his betrayal. The narration presents each disciple's life and gives details about them that are sometimes unique and little-known. After Jesus partakes of the Passover meal with his disciples, giving his followers new words to remember, he then invites the congregation to share in the feast with him. The disciples will then usher 12 people up at a time to have the sacred meal with Jesus. Once all have been served, the disciples will then find themselves in the garden of Gethsemane. His comrades are so full and sleepy that they can no longer stay awake to watch while Jesus is off by himself in fervent prayer. We will witness the dramatic prayer soliloquy by Jesus, ending when Judas finally escorts the arresting officers to the place of betrayal.

Don't miss this moving testimony on Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome! A nursery will be provided.

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

March \$1,608.58 24 Units of Service

Our Pastor's Discretionary Fund balance is currently \$876.36.

Wednesday Night Live: Two Events in April



April 10, 2019

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

"Care Packages for Military"

at First Christian Church

Participants will have the opportunity to listen to a Veteran speaker, and then make “care packages” for soldiers. This is one way we can show soldiers we think about them and appreciate them. In support of the organization, "Operation Gratitude," we will be sending letters as well as donations of specific items that our soldiers need. Contributions of cards will also be appreciated!

For guidance about the items soldiers need most, click [HERE](#).

For guidance about writing a letter to a soldier, click [HERE](#).

You may begin bringing in your items to our church at any point. Donations will be gathered and brought over to First Christian Church for the Wednesday Night Live event on April 10.

April 24, 2019

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

"Closing Banquet and Potluck"

at First Christian Church

Participants will enjoy a nice meal and each other's company at our last Wednesday Night Live event for this academic year.



Dear Church Family, I am learning some of the best lessons of my life: respect for nurses, nurse practitioners, and doctors (and faraway researchers) who are giving their careers to helping those diagnosed with cancer; humility as I sit with people who are patiently undergoing their fourth year of chemotherapy—or bravely fighting just for several more months with their loved ones; gratitude for my life, my family, my friends, my remarkably

generous First Presbyterian congregation. Thank you for all the kind surprises—for soups and homemade breads and yummy brownies delivered to my doorstep, a pretty pink sack of practical comforts (plus oatmeal cookies!), the coziest socks and the cutest umbrella arriving in my mailbox, a book with great tips for self-care, cards carrying humor and encouragement and compassion, quick hugs and generous prayers. None of us would wish for illness or injury...but when misfortunes happen, this is the congregation that will do everything possible to make things better! You are wonderful. ---Marcie Johnson

Clerk's Corner

Submitted by Carol Allen

Stated Session Meeting

March 14, 2019

- George Kipphut reported that the balance of \$1,897 in a dormant account has been transferred to the checking account.
- Session discussed the make-up of the Task Force for the Future with every demographic being represented along with its goals and objectives.
- Session approved the communion dates for April: first Sunday, April 7; Maundy Thursday, April 18; and April 21, Easter.

Financial Report

Submitted by George Kipphut

Financial Report

2019 General Fund Income as of March 25, 2019 - \$49,051

2019 General Fund Expenses as of March 25, 2019 - \$44,544

Head & Heart Update

Submitted by Ken Wolf

At our last Head & Heart meeting in March, about 15 of us enjoyed discussing the soul, as described in the opening chapters of Naomi Levy's, "Einstein and the Rabbi." We invite any of "yaw!" who want to join us to come to another meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, at First Presbyterian Church. We are still talking about Part I of the book (first 126 pages) so you haven't missed much. I am once again including my "index style" notes on the book so that you can get a feel for what Rabbi Levy is doing (the title is a bit misleading, but a good hook to draw people to the book). The book is NOT about Einstein, except for one non-

scientific sympathy letter he wrote. You may check out my notes [here](#). Call Ken Wolf if you have questions: (270) 293-5502.

April Birthdays

Lisa Polivick, April 8
Laura Ken Hoffman, April 10
Whitey Adams, April 10
Sal Matarazzo, April 21
Deanna Wolf, April 21
Ralph Pittman, April 30



April Anniversaries

Andrea & Dave Howe, April 4
Jamie & Roy Helton, April 28

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

Jerry Meyer	Blood clot
Tanner Jones	Passing of his grandmother
Warren and Judy Thomas	Warren, hospice care
Deanna Wolf	Recovery from new hip surgery
Marilyn Miller	Cancer treatment to start soon
Dan Moore	Home, recovering from pneumonia
Marcie Johnson	Breast cancer treatments
Barbara Conley	Breast cancer treatments
Bill and Susan Stewart	Passing of Bill's mother, Laura Stewart
Jo Martin	Recovery

Sid Martin	Recovery
Sue and George Cochran	Passing of Sue's daughter, Susie Taylor
Brittany Hesson	Passing of her boyfriend, Ron Denney
Kathy and Robin Stroud	Robin, stroke recovery
Morgan Randall	Loss of father, Greg Randall
Sue Lyford	Loss of brother, Tom Miles
Marcie Hobbs	Loss of father, Fred Blix
Margaret Boone	Medical issues
Eva Hopkins	Strength and recovery
Sue Cochran	Health issues
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

Keith Mainord (Lisa Polivick's brother)	Hospitalized, respiratory distress
Jenny Rea's Mother	Passing of close friend
Baby Finn (Family friend of Hoffmans)	Stage 4 cancer, chemotherapy
Family of Baby Evan (Shirley Latto's Friends)	
Pat Pittman (Ralph Pittman's son)	Kidney cancer
Darcy Hendricks (Tana Field's friend)	Recovery from brain stem stroke
Jim McCullouch (Maribeth Crawford's grandfather)	Recovery from mini strokes, adjustment to rest home
Jimmy (Don Fleming's cousin)	Recovery from leg surgery
Gene (Don Fleming's cousin)	Complications from Alzheimer's and stroke
Todd Goselin's mother	Mental illness
Mark Jones (Debbie Hixon's brother in law)	Leukemia and Non-Hodgkins disease
Bill and Anne Williams (Cindy Barnett's parents)	Care for Bill's Parkinson's disease and dementia
Danny (Liz Gillaim's cousin)	Inoperable brain tumor
Gwen Wolf (Deanna's friend)	Lung transplant recovery
Family of George Saunders	

Justine Ostlund	Health concerns
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