

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

Children & Youth Ministry Director: Kelly Holland

Music Director: Emma Whitt

Accompanist: Christy D'Ambrosio

Storyteller: Lucy Mitchell

Nursery Attendants: Mandy Brogan, Lucy Mitchell, Lindsay Crafton

Custodian: Monte Fisher

Summer Office Hours: Mon-Thurs:

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 - 3:15 p.m.

From Pastor Renee's Desk

We are reminded that summer has essentially come and gone as our children and youth begin their new school years. Family vacations have drawn to a close and people are back at work. It seems that First Presbyterian Church of Murray is greatly impacted by the school system, especially the seasons/semesters of Murray State University. We generally kick off our return to regular schedule with Rally Day. Along with Easter and our choir's cantatas, Rally Day is usually one of our high attendance Sundays. The timeline concerning Sunday school has changed a bit from past years, so pay attention to the dates!

This year, Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, August 25. We will begin with a potluck breakfast at 9:30 a.m. followed by worship at 10:45 a.m. On Wednesday, September 4 at 5:30 p.m., we will kick off four new Midweek Oasis program. This is an idea that developed within the Church Growth Committee. We have appreciated the experience of collaboration with First Christian Church and their gracious willingness to include us in their WNL programming for the past 3 years. However, the Church Growth Committee and the session think that it is time we developed our own programming here at First Presbyterian. And so the idea of Midweek Oasis was soon hatched! We are calling it Midweek Oasis because we hope that this time together will be a refreshing moment in the hustle and bustle of everyday retired, working and/or family life that all too often renders us exhausted and depleted. It will be time to stop and eat a meal you didn't have to prepare within a communal fellowship of believers. If your day is often quiet, it will be a time to enjoy community with your church family. It will be a time to

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday

Morning at 7 a.m.

August 7, Crossroads

August 14, Hih Burger

August 21, Martha's

August 28, Rudy's



Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at

11:45 a.m.

August 1, Big Apple

August 8, Jasmine Thai

August 15, Garden Cafe

August 22, Applebee's

August 29, Panera Bread

refresh your relationship to the Divine Source of your being as you delve into deep conversations about faith and experience meaningful moments of prayer together.

We will enjoy a catered meal from Artisan Café every week for only \$5 per person, with a maximum expenditure of \$15 for any family with 4 or more people. We will eat from 5:30-6:00 p.m., and then the children, youth, MOTA, and adults will split into break-out groups for their own activities. Our new staff member, Kelly Holland, will split her time each month between the Children's Ministry and the Youth Group (6th-12th graders). This means we will need folks to step up and cover the children's activities two Wednesdays a month while she is with our Youth Group. Kelly and the Christian Education Committee will do all the planning for the children's activities, so volunteers won't have to worry about anything but executing the plan!

For the first 12 Wednesdays, the adults will watch a short video and follow it with discussion. The topic is Jesus. These are some of the things we will be thinking through: How has Jesus been understood through the ages? What can we and can't we know about him? What was the world like at that time? What was the heart of his teaching about? Why did he die? What do we make of the resurrection of Christ? Pastor Renee and Ken Wolf will help to facilitate these conversations to begin with. Anyone else wanting to help facilitate, please let Pastor Renee or Ken know.

Sunday school will resume after the Labor Day weekend, so mark your calendar for September 8 at 9:30 a.m. Our praise music will resume as soon as the interview/hiring process is complete. Emma and I have been tasked by the session to find a person or persons that will best fit our congregation in this capacity. We will let you know when this is to resume.

One thing I do want to say about our Midweek Oasis: It won't be a success if people don't show up. I know that everyone can't make it every single week, but please make a special effort to attend as frequently as possible. Do it for your brothers and sisters in Christ who need you there so they can drink from that deep well known as community. If you don't like to drive at night, no problem! We will have people willing to pick folks up and take them home. This congregation has historically been difficult to turn out for much other than worship on Sundays—let's be about changing that. I have no doubt whatsoever that you will be blessed by the time together.

Midweek Oasis will meet every Wednesday of every month. I hope to see you there often!

Shalom,

Pastor Renee



Laundry Love

Submitted by Shirley Latto

The Outreach Committee hosted Laundry Love on Monday, May 20, 2019, at I Wash Laundry in Murray. Thirty-three families were served that afternoon and left with clean laundry and also hopefully, the assurance of knowing others are there to help. The conversations that occur with the people who are being served are always heartwarming and rewarding for the volunteers.

One person gave us nine dollars that afternoon to help with our next time to host. That was a touching gesture that reminded those of us volunteering that our congregation has been extremely generous with donations to support this valuable and greatly-needed mission for our community. This ministry started with St. John's Episcopal, First Christian, and First Presbyterian churches and has consistently grown since its beginning in July 2018. Sincere thanks go to each of you who have given so greatly of your time and donations to support this effort.

Our next Laundry Love date will be August 26, 2019. If you would be interested in volunteering please contact Shirley Latto at (270) 753-9852.

Rally Day

August 25, 2019

Join us as we kick off a new Church Academic Year!

9:30 a.m. Breakfast Potluck
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday School for All Ages Begins at
9:30 a.m. on September 8, 2019



Presbyterian Women

Submitted by Cheryl Pittman

Presbyterian Women will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, August 26 in the session room at FPC. We will discuss the upcoming year and look at ideas for projects. ALL women in the church are welcome. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us!

The new slate of officers for 2019-2020 are:

Moderator - Cheryl Pittman

Secretary - Kathie Fleming

Treasurer - Marcie Johnson

Soup for the Soul

Submitted by Marcie Johnson

Even though "too many cooks spoil the broth," FPC's Soup for the Soul team always has just the right number! Many thanks to those who prepared the July 15 meal: Patsy Chaney and her daughter Martha, Marcie Johnson, Shirley Latto, Jerry Meyer, and Ann Wells---and to those who served and cleaned up: Donna Leigh, Jerry and Renee Meyer, Cheryl and Ralph Pittman, Ann Stanley.

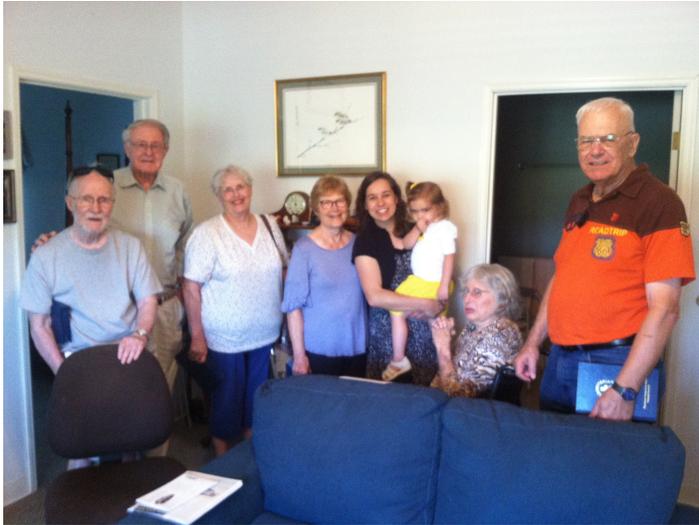
It is always good to have new help, so if you can offer a couple of hours for our next Soup for the Soul workday, September 16, please let us know! For the first shift, 2:15-4:30 p.m. (meal prep and beginning service), call or text Marcie Johnson at (270) 853-0128. To volunteer for the second shift (continuing to serve guests and then getting the kitchen clean, 4:30-6:30 p.m. or so), get in touch with Ann Stanley at (270) 293-7049.

June Hymn Sing: A Good Time!

Submitted by Kate Tombaugh, Former Director of Music



Our cheery group of troubadours had a fun time visiting a few shut-in FPC members on the morning of Saturday, June 29. Terry Foreman, Kathie & Don Fleming, Ann Royalty, Ann Wells, Cindy Barnett, and Kate Tombaugh, Steve & Grace Weimer visited with Margaret Boone at Brookedale, Eva Hopkins & Mary Lynn Christensen at Spring Creek, and Carleen & Joe Belcher at Hickory Woods. Ann brought beautiful crepe flower arrangements to brighten up their rooms, and all had a hymnal in tow to sing some favorite tunes for our beloved friends. Margaret joined in the singing and even conducted a bit from her seat, relaying stories about her life in music and home country of Newfoundland. Eva was grateful for the perk and enjoyed the music. For anyone visiting her in the future, I offer this tip: she



loves a hot and fresh cup of coffee with a little cream. Carleen & Joe were thrilled to show off the wonderful setting at Hickory Woods, and the newer Murray-ans learned interesting historical anecdotes about Kentucky Lake and the area. Carleen made quick friends with toddler Grace when she shared some of her precious oreo stash. All in all, it was a wonderful morning of friendship and fellowship, simple in its quest, but abounding in benefit for both the visitors and those visited. (Pictured first: Steve Weimer and Margaret Boone share a hymnal. Pictured second: Terry Foreman, Joe Belcher,

Kathie Fleming, Ann Royalty, Kate Tombaugh, Grace Weimer, Carleen Belcher, Don Fleming, a visit to Hickory Woods.)

Sunday School

Submitted by Bill Stewart

- Calling all Young Adults -- If you are in your 20's, 30's or 40's (or if you are young at heart) and might be interested in beginning a Young Adults Sunday School Class this Fall, please contact Bill Stewart, Christian Education Elder, 1zackdog@gmail.com, or (270) 875-3009.
- Christian Education is looking for folks who would like to help teach our Children and Youth Sunday School (on rotation or as often as you would like). If you would like to join the Children and Youth Sunday School Teacher Substitute List, please contact Bill Stewart.

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
April	\$1,672.16	22 Units of Service
May	\$442	10 Units of Service

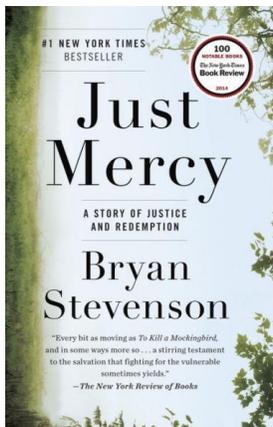
June (to date)	\$477.19	7 Units of Service
July	\$0	0 Units of Service

Our Pastor's Discretionary Fund balance is currently \$758.76.

Nursery Helpers

Submitted by Andrea French

We are looking for a group of volunteers who would be interested in covering our nursery on Sundays when our nursery attendant is unable to be here. Sickness and emergencies will happen, and we want to ensure the nursery will always have an attendant for our youngest children! This also brings peace of mind to our parents and caregivers. If you are interested in helping out in this capacity, please see the sign up table and write your name and phone number down. You might receive a call on a Saturday evening, asking if you might be able to help fill in. Or, there might be a Sunday or two when you show up to worship, but you will be asked to help cover the nursery instead. Thank you for your willingness to help us continue this important resource for our families.



Head & Heart Update

Submitted by Ken Wolf

Dear fellow Head & Heart reader/seekers: Having just completed Rabbi Levy's book on "Einstein and the Rabbi," we are now ready to shift gears from discussion of personal spiritual growth to something a bit new for us, a book on race relations by the somewhat famous author/lawyer Bryan Stevenson. "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption," tells the story of Walter McMillan, "a young man sentenced to die for a notorious murder he didn't commit." This book was named one of the 100 notable books by the New York Times in 2014. Used copies are available in paper from Amazon. Since I have not yet read the book, and thus don't know how fast or slow we might want to go in discussing it, I will suggest that

we read the first five chapters, although if it is an easy read, I might try to get through chapter 8--about the first half of the book. Join us at our next meeting: August 15, at 6:00 p.m. in the Session room at First Presbyterian Church. You will be glad you did! Q? Ken Wolf: (270) 293-5502.

Financial Report

Submitted by George Kippbut

Financial Report

2019 General Fund Income as of July 31, 2019 - \$107,467

2019 General Fund Expenses as of July 31, 2019 - \$108,078

Thanks to everyone who who has been keeping up with with pledges and contributions during the summer months. Year-to-Date statements of contributions will be available in September.

Beth Belote Circle

The Beth Belote Circle will begin the new academic year at 6:00 p.m., August 1, when Annie Wells will present a program on deepening faith. Debbie Burgess will welcome the group to her home at 1710 Audubon, serving us wine and hors d'oeuvres--and you are welcome to join us. Meetings start at 6:00 p.m. and finish by 7:30.

McKenzie-Moore Circle

The McKenzie-Moore Circle will start the 2019-20 academic year at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 12, at the home of Ann Stanley. We'll cover Chapter 10 and 11 in our current book, "Twelve More Women of the Bible". Everyone is welcome to join!

August Birthdays

Joelle French, August 6

Susan Stewart, August 8

Don Fleming, August 11

Janine Kruger, August 13

Vicki Jo Valentine, August 18

Kathryn Jenkins, August 19

Robert Valentine, August 26

Emma Whitt, August 29



Summer's End

by Nancy Hughes

No flowers to plant,
No garden to tend,
As summertime lazily
Comes to an end.

It's time to sit back
and deliciously savor
The beauty of the season
and the fruits of our labor.

Farewell to summer;
for autumn make way,
With this last celebration
We call Labor Day.

August Anniversaries

Dawn & Don Gaskin, August 1

Ethelyn & Gordon Loberger, August 1

Marion & Pete O'Rourke, August 6

Bonnie & Sam McNeely, August 17

Charlotte & John Gregory, August 21



Save the Date!
Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Held On:
Thursday, October 17, 2019
From 12:30-5:30 p.m. at FPC

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

Family of Roy Helton

Whitey Adams

Andrea French

Sal Matarazzo

Terry Holmes and family

Judy Thomas

Family of Dan Moore

Eva Hopkins

Tonie Belcher

Deanna Wolf

Marcie Johnson

Bill and Susan Stewart

Jo Martin

Sid Martin

Sue and George Cochran

Margaret Boone

Sue Cochran

Paul Shaw

Recovery, eye surgery

Recovery, skin cancer surgeries

Brookdale

Passing of Terry's brother, Greg

Passing of her husband, Warren

Spring Creek

Passing of her mother, Martha Earlene Clark

For continued strength & recovery

Breast cancer treatments

Passing of Bill's mother, Laura Stewart

Passing of Sue's daughter, Susie Taylor

Medical issues

Health issues

Declining health due to Parkinson's Disease

Mary Lynn Christensen

Alzheimer's, Spring Creek #129

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Pat Jim McCollough (Maribeth Crawford's father)	Prostate cancer
Brian O'Neil (Dennis Mills' friend)	Metastatic brain cancer
Baby Finn (Family friend of Hoffmans)	Stage 4 cancer, chemotherapy
John McConnachie (Dennis Mills' friend)	Hospice care
Amy Chace (Andrea French's mother)	Recovery from back surgery
Pastor Ruth Ragovin's Stepfather	Cancer
Pat Pittman (Ralph Pittman's son)	Kidney surgery recovery
Darcy Hendricks (Tana Field's friend)	Recovery from brain stem stroke
Jim McCullough (Maribeth Crawford's grandfather)	Recovery from mini strokes
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, dementia
Gwen Wolf (Deanna's friend)	Lung transplant recovery
Sandy Cunningham (Pastor Renee's mother)	Severe macular degeneration