

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

MOTA Interns: Natasha Purcell, Elise Eaton

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday:

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

From Pastor Renee's Desk

It seems that every Presbyterian congregation I have served has had its own unique process for taking in new members. One church required member candidates to be examined (yes, and it was as bad as it sounds) on theology, the sacraments, and church government. When I was told how they went about their process, I do remember my response was, “You don’t take in very many new folks, do you?” While I understood that it was preferable for a new member to be well-informed about what it means to be a Presbyterian, there is something to be said about not going overboard. There is a balance between making sure new folks aren’t surprised by anything that Presbyterians do/believe, and expecting them to pass a test that would intimidate even a seasoned Presbyterian pastor!

For instance, new people are often surprised to learn that the church property is held in trust by its presbytery (a geographical region of churches). In other words, every church building and premises belong to the presbytery. If a church closes, the property reverts to the presbytery and that body (composed of an equal number of clergy and elected ruling elders) then decides what to do with it. Often the property is then sold and the money becomes part of the presbytery’s assets, which are then used to fund mission and ministry. One scenario I have seen was when a presbytery bought out a church’s mortgage so that they could turn around and let the church pay back the loan to the presbytery at a much lower interest rate, thereby giving the congregation some major financial relief when they were previously struggling to pay said mortgage. How property is managed within the presbyterian system is a great demonstration of our connectional nature. We are

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday

Morning at 7 a.m.

Sept 4, Cracker Barrel

Sept 11, Crossroads

Sept 18, Hih Burger

Sept 25, Martha's



Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at

11:45 a.m.

Sept 5, Artisan Kitchen

Sept 12, Mr. B's

Sept 19, Dumplin's

Sept 26, Sirloin Stockade

not left to our own devices. We have great support through Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. We support, as well as hold one another accountable, through this connectional system.

If you have been thinking about becoming a member of FPC Murray, you might be pleased to learn that the process is quite easy and laid back. If you are a member of another congregation, we will contact them for your letter of transfer. Sometimes we do not get a reply, but not to worry, that does not impede the process. The other way to join is through an affirmation of faith. Historically, our session has asked folks to come to a session meeting (Ruling Elders meet once a month) in order to share their journey of faith and get to meet the members of session. For some this process has felt intimidating therefore the session has decided to offer a new way. They have created a membership form to fill out and turn into the office. The clerk of session will share the submitted forms with the elders during their monthly meeting. Then viola, the session votes and you become a member of FPC Murray! Just so you know, the vote is always unanimously positive! Then you will receive a "new member packet" that tells you everything you could possibly want to know about the ministries of this particular congregation.

The form is comprised of three questions. The first asks you to explain what attracted you to our congregation. This helps us build on our strengths. The second asks you to check the areas of church life that interest you. And the final question asks you to circle any of the church committees that might be of interest to you.

That is it! If you are interested in learning more about what it means to be Presbyterian, I often recommend the book, *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*, by Donald K. McKim. It is short and easy to read. Remember, however, that not every Presbyterian believes the same thing. That's impossible to find in a single church, much less across a whole denomination. So it is more of a guide than it is an answer book.

I hope that if you have been attending our church, you will decide to become a member! The rights of membership provide you an opportunity to vote during all congregational meetings, so your voice will be heard. You could also be nominated to serve on session as a ruling elder. The session makes all of the decisions concerning its particular congregation. The elders "rule" the church, if you will. So,

when I say that as pastor, "I have no power," I'm not exaggerating one bit! Ruling elders may also serve as commissioners to Presbytery, Synod, and/or General Assembly. As a church member, you can choose how active you want to be in pursuing these various opportunities.

The session of FPC Murray hopes that you will prayerfully consider becoming a member. We become stronger when we have more voices at the table. God bless you as you prayerfully consider what God is calling you to do.

Shalom,

Pastor Renee



Sunday School For All Ages Begins September 8

Submitted by Bill Stewart

Sunday School will begin a new academic year on September 8, 2019. Your Christian Education Committee invites you to join a class of your choosing. Drop in and visit one to see if it is the right fit for you. All ages are welcome!

The following classes for all ages will be offered from 9:30-10:20 a.m. on Sunday mornings:

1. Little Lambs--for our youngest children who are potty-trained three year olds through first grade. Age-appropriate lessons and activities are derived from the "Deep Blue" curriculum.
2. Disciples--for our children who are in second grade through fifth grade. Lessons and activities are derived from the "Deep Blue" curriculum.
3. Youth--for youth who are in sixth grade through twelfth grade. Lessons and discussions are derived from the "Faith Questions" curriculum series.
4. Adult Pathfinders--for adults of all ages. This class meets in the Fellowship Hall, and members will follow a video series, "The New Testament You Never Knew." A thought-provoking discussion will follow. Everyone is invited to attend this class!
5. Adult Seekers--for adults of all ages. This class meets in the Session Room and will also follow a video series/discussion format. Members will decide which video series it would like to start with first: "First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God," featuring John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg, or, "Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God," featuring Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Everyone is invited to attend this class!

Our nursery, staffed with loving caregivers, will be available every Sunday!

Midweek Oasis at First Presbyterian Church

Fellowship With Your Church Family Every Wednesday Night!

5:30 p.m. Optional Catered Meal

Adults \$8

Kids 10 and under \$6

*Meal reservations are required to be made by Sunday
Please bring your payment to the meal.*

6:00-6:50 p.m. Programming

Adult Study

Children Fellowship & Games

*For Children who are potty-trained 3 year olds
through the 5th grade.*

A nursery will also be provided!

6:00 p.m. MOTA

7:00-8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

The catered meal is optional! You also have the choice of bringing your own meal to enjoy. Whether you want to join us for the meal, or just join us for the programming, Midweek Oasis is about community with your church family. Please make your meal reservations for each Wednesday's catered meal by Sunday at the Sign-Up Table .



First Presbyterian Church
1601 Main Street
Murray, Kentucky 42071
Phone: (270) 753-6460
Email: fpcmurray@hotmail.com

Kids' Zone

Children will have the opportunity to play fun games and activities with our Children & Youth Ministry Director, Kelly Holland!



Adult Study

Adults are invited to watch and discuss a video series called, "Saving Jesus." This 12-video series will explore the relevancy of Jesus for 21st-century believers. Pastor Renee and Ken Wolf will take turns facilitating the discussion. Everyone is welcome to join!

Faith Discussion to Resume September 12

Submitted by Cheryl Pittman

Faith Discussion will begin on Thursday, September 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the session room. We will be reading, "The Unwinding of the Miracle," by Julie Yip-Williams. Everyone is invited to join us as we explore and share our ideas and theology. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Cheryl Pittman for more information: (270) 227-6342 or doctorpit@yahoo.com.

Fall Fellowship Activities at FPC

Submitted by Kathie Fleming

Fellowship Coffees: The Fellowship Committee plans Fellowship Coffees immediately after church service for the following second Sundays: September 8, October 13, and November 10. We will set up and provide drinks. Please bring a finger-food snack to share, such as fruit, cookies, finger sandwiches, cheese and crackers, or even a cheese ball.

Fellowship Coffees will provide a great opportunity to get to know all the new people who have begun worshipping with us in the last few months.

September 28 Soup, Sandwiches & Games Fellowship: The next family-fun event sponsored by the Fellowship Committee is scheduled for Saturday, September 28, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at church. Tables will be set up for games for kids and adults alike. Bring your favorite game or two and gather a group to join you!

A sign-up sheet is posted on the sign-up table. Please sign up to bring a pot of soup or a batch of sandwiches or a dessert. Drinks will be provided. Please also indicate the total number of family members that will attend. Please call Kathie Fleming if you have questions. (270) 759-1145.

Soup for the Soul

Submitted by Ann Stanley

Monday, Sept. 16 is our next opportunity to help with Soup for the Soul. Marcie Johnson and I are seeking energetic helpers to assist with preparing, serving and cleaning up on this day. We welcome newcomers and faithful workers alike! To sign up for the first shift, 2:15-4:30 p.m. (meal prep and beginning service), please contact 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), please contact Ann Stanley at (270) 293-7049.

Head & Heart Update

Submitted by Ken Wolf

In August we took our first swipe at understanding the issues presented by Bryan Stevenson in his book, "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption." We will meet again for a final discussion of this book from 6-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, in the Fellowship Hall at First Christian Church. Please note the different location for this meeting. You may park in the small lot behind First Christian Church (or in the larger bank lot just south of the FCC

property). There is easy access (no step and a small ramp) into the FCC basement Fellowship Hall from the small parking lot behind the church. Questions? Ken Wolf: (270) 293-5502.

Just Justo Coffee

Submitted by Marion O'Rourke

Please remember that Justo coffee is available for purchase in the narthex. We buy this coffee to support the farmers and their families. These farmers grow, roast and package the coffee.

When you purchase a bag you will receive the name of the farmer who grew your coffee. A look at the Justo website will introduce you to the farmer's family.

The bags cost \$11 for a one pound bag.

Thanks so much for supporting this outreach program.



Presbyterian Women

Submitted by Cheryl Pittman

Presbyterian Women will not meet in September. The next meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, October 7. Please bring your lunch and dessert will be provided! All women are welcome to join!

Beth Belote Circle

The Beth Belote Circle will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 5 at Debbie Burgess' home, 1710 Audubon. Our gracious hostess serves 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 meet on Monday, September 9, at the home of Bev Reuter. We begin at 1:00 p.m. and all women are welcome to attend.

Rally Day 2019

Photos Submitted by Jerry Meyer and Andrea French

First Presbyterian Church held its annual Rally Day on Sunday, August 25, 2019. Members enjoyed a potluck breakfast in the Fellowship Hall and learned about various Christian Education opportunities available at FPC. Worship Service followed at 10:45 a.m.





Dear Friends of FPC,

I am excited to introduce our two new MOTA interns this year, Elise Eaton and Natasha Purcell.

Both young women were exemplary students in my English and history classes at Murray High School. I asked them to serve as MOTA interns because of their humility, compassion, and commitment to Christ.



Natasha Purcell



Elise Eaton

Both were leading members of the MHS Tiger Band when the band won two state championships back-to-back. Natasha was the drum major both years, and Elise was a member of the color guard. Both have grown up in Murray. Natasha's mother is Allison Purcell, and Elise is the daughter of David and Jocelyn Eaton. Natasha is majoring in music and social work, and Elise is majoring in history education. (YAH! Maybe she will take my position at MHS when I retire.) Both are members of the Honors College at MSU and participate in the color guard of the Murray State Racer Band. I look forward to seeing how God will use them in our church and at MSU!

Our MOTA ministry will be meeting on Wednesdays so that we can have fellowship and eat dinner with our church family in the Oasis program. We will then head to the MOTA house, where we will have fellowship from 6:00-6:30 and worship every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30. Natasha, Elise, other MOTA members, and I will take turns leading worship services.

Our first MOTA meeting is September 4. It is an ice cream social followed by a short worship service. On Friday and Saturday, September 6th and 7th, we will have our fall retreat at Kenlake. We will stay at a cottage on Friday night, getting better acquainted and planning our semester's activities. Then, we will spend Saturday boating on Kentucky Lake.

Every year we ask members of the congregation to adopt a MOTA student. I will have a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer for you to sign if you would like to participate in this program. Adoptive families are asked to remember the students on their birthdays and holidays and at the beginning and endings of each semester. Cards mean so much! Students and adopted families also go out to eat or attend other events in town together. This program has been a blessing to both the students and congregants in the past. Some have developed lifelong relationships.

Two young women who served as MOTA interns have now chosen to spend their lives in ministry. Brittany Hesson has completed seminary and accepted her first church in Ohio. Brett Eishenhauer is entering seminary this fall after serving a year as a Young Adult Volunteer in Washington, D.C. We are certainly fulfilling our mission of developing Christian leadership among young adults! I am so proud of both of them. We are excited about MOTA's future and the difference we make in students' lives.

Sincerely, Lisa Polivick

GIVE BLOOD

You can make a difference.



American Red Cross

Save the Date!

Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Held On:

Thursday, October 17, 2019

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



Murray Calloway County
Need Line

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
August	\$805.96	13 Units of Service

Our Pastor's Discretionary Fund balance is currently \$40.98.

Clerk's Corner

Submitted by Carol Allen

Stated Session Meeting

August 8, 2019

Action taken:

- Approved resumption of Sunday school and serving communion on September 8 instead of September 1, Labor Day weekend

Financial Report

Submitted by George Kipphut

Financial Report

2019 General Fund Income as of August 31, 2019 - \$123,052

2019 General Fund Expenses as of August 31, 2019 - \$122,546

The annual Fall Stewardship Campaign will begin in late September or early October. Year-to-Date statements of contributions will be distributed this month.

September Birthdays

Lucy Mitchell, Sept 1

Dawn Gaskin, Sept 8

Trenton Holland, Sept 9

Barbara Conley, Sept 10

Sid Martin, Sept 10

Luke Crawford, Sept 12

Kathie Fleming, Sept 13

Paul Shaw, Sept 23

Ethelyn Loberger, Sept 26

Cindy Barnett, Sept 26

Carol Jean Lewis, Sept 27



September Anniversaries

Ann & Bill Wells, Sept 3

Cheryl & Ralph Pittman, Sept 6

Maribeth & Luke Crawford, Sept 8

Janine Kruger & Tom Jenkins, Sept 15

Tana Field & Todd Goselin, Sept 18

Kathie & Don Fleming, Sept 29

Prayer Concerns

Church Members and Regular Attendees

Marilyn Miller

Cancer treatments

Ann Stanley

Recovery from surgery

Jamie Helton	Passing of her husband, Roy
Sal Matarazzo	
Terry Holmes and family	Passing of Terry's brother, Greg
Judy Thomas	Passing of her husband, Warren
Eva Hopkins	Spring Creek
Deanna Wolf	For continued strength & recovery
Marcie Johnson	Breast cancer treatments
Sue and George Cochran	Passing of Sue's daughter, Susie Taylor
Margaret Boone	Medical issues
Sue Cochran	Health issues
Paul Shaw	Declining health due to Parkinson's Disease
Mary Lynn Christensen	Alzheimer's, Spring Creek #129

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Melissa (Emma Whitt's mother)	Health issues
Employees of Briggs & Stratton	
Debbie (Barbara Conley's daughter)	Recovery, foot surgery
Jim McCollouch (Maribeth Crawford's father)	Prostate cancer treatments
Brian O'Neil (Dennis Mills' friend)	Metastatic brain cancer
Baby Finn (Family friend of Hoffmans)	Stage 4 cancer, chemotherapy
Pastor Ruth Ragovin's Stepfather	Cancer
Darcy Hendricks (Tana Field's friend)	Recovery from brain stem stroke
Jim McCullouch (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