

# 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

Recently I was asked about the value of participating in a church versus working on one's spirituality outside of any organized religious path. This is a valid question, even though some church folks are flippant in their response. It goes back to our current, postmodern era's debate over spirituality vs. organized religion. When I taught World Religions I heard my students talk about this all the time. They felt like organized religion (specifically the church) was limited in its understanding of God and most importantly to them, they thought the church was judgmental and unfairly exclusive of certain people. But they admitted they still yearned for spirituality—that individual connection to the Divine Force.

I do think there is value in seeking answers to the proposed question: Why be part of a church when you can develop a spiritual path all on your own? The one word simple answer is: community. Community is the gift that the church shares with one another, something a solitary spiritual seeker is not afforded. Oh, some might ask, "Isn't community the breeding ground for conflicts and arguments?" Yes, sure, it can be. It is hard to have an argument or conflict with one's self, so yes—there is always risk within community that folks will get angry with one another. Conflict is indeed a possibility "wherever two or three are gathered." But, let's be honest, that is a given whenever humans gather in social groups.

Why then be a part of a church community where we might rub-up against folks we really don't understand—because we have very different worldviews and experiences? The Church's answer is simply that it's because community is the model provided by the early

## Join Us!



### Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday  
Morning at 7 a.m.

Oct 2, Rudy's  
Oct 9, Cracker Barrel  
Oct 16, Crossroads  
Oct 23, Hih Burger  
Oct 30, Martha's



### Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at  
11:45 a.m.

Oct 3, August Moon  
Oct 10, Don Sol  
Oct 17, The Keg  
Oct 24, Tom's Grille  
Oct 31, Culver's

church. Before the institutional church took hold in the fourth century, the early Jesus Movement held all things in common. It pooled its resources, took care of one another, reached out to the downtrodden, celebrated joys, supported one another in pain, worshiped together, and witnessed to each other about the power of God's transformative love. Add to this the notion that Jesus said, "Wherever two or three are gathered, there I will be also." Jesus was understood to be most present within community precisely because its care for one another modeled the care he had exhibited for the masses when he traveled the Galilean countryside.

Community is how we support one another in the spiritual endeavor. Community is how we help one another cultivate a deeper relationship with the Divine. It is within community that we learn how to deal with conflict in a healthy manner. I hear people say all the time that conflict in the church is a bad thing. No, that is not true. Conflict itself is not a bad thing—it is how the conflict is handled that is either good or bad. Most of the time, when conflict is resolved in a healthy way, people's relationships are deepened and they have a better understanding of one another. They begin to value one another even more, which is quite remarkable if you think about it. Conflict has the potential to grow our friendships and our faith.

Our new Midweek Oasis meal and discussion is our church's effort in building more community. The meal time gives us time to get to know one another better. It gives us a chance to hear about joys and concerns. Our formal discussion gives us the opportunity to dig deeper into our faith. We ask questions about faith and then think about new ways we might be able to answer those questions. This community discussion allows us to deepen our discipleship, as well as deepen and broaden our faith perspectives.

When we pursue the singular spiritual endeavor, we are not afforded any of the benefits of community. Granted, even as members of a faith family, there is work we must do on our own as well. Developing a deeper faith requires personal study and prayer. The key is to have a balance of both in your life. May God grant you grace as you strive to live out your faith, both within community and in your individual walk with Christ.

Shalom,

Pastor Renee

## FPC New Member Spotlight



Hello! We are the Hoffmans: Ronnie, Laura, Ken, Duncan, and Griffin. My parents, Bill and Susan Stewart, are active members of FPC and we really enjoy being a part of the church family, too! Ronnie and I originally met at MSU when we were students during our undergraduate years. We moved off to Louisville, KY for a few years and moved back to Murray in the summer of 2013. I am a Veterinarian and teach at MSU in the Vet Tech/Pre-Vet department, and Ronnie is a Dentist in Cadiz. We have a 5 year old, Duncan, who just started kindergarten at Murray Elementary, and a 3 year old, Griffin who is in daycare at Milestones. As if life wasn't already busy enough, over the summer we also got two puppies, Max and Buttercup. They ALL keep us busy and entertained, for sure! Thank you for welcoming us with open arms at FPC!

Hello! We are the McKibbens (from left to right - Hannah, Bentley, Soojin, and Bill)! Soojin and I came to Murray in 1999 having just moved to the U.S. from South Korea. We lived in Benton for a year before moving to Murray on February 6, 2001 (our wedding anniversary). At that time, I just accepted a position at Murray State University's Institute for International Studies. Eighteen years later, I am still at MSU serving as the Director for International Enrollment and Retention. Both Soojin and I received our Master Degrees from MSU and I just recently completed my Doctorate of Education from Murray State. In 2004, our family grew and we welcomed Hannah Ashley McKibben to the world. Hannah is now a freshman at Murray High School and an active member of the high school marching band. We enjoy traveling as a family and watching movies together. Although we are new members to FPC, we feel that we have been a part of FPC since 2000 when we became a part of the Korean Fellowship and later, Murray Areumdaun Woori Church. Thank you for welcoming us to your family and we are super excited about FPC being our official church home.



Hello! We are the Hollands. Our family consists of Chris, Kelly, Trenton, and Nina Rose. We relocated here from a very small town in Northern California called Quincy. Last spring Chris transferred to a position at the Land Between The Lakes, and I currently work at FPC as well as Omni Visions. We were previously members of a small baptist church in Quincy for the last 10 years, where Chris served as an elder and I was in charge of Christian Education. Both of us served on the church council.

We transferred to this area to get closer to my family, which lives in Texas. It was a very difficult decision and we prayed about it for a very long time before we decided to leave Quincy. Once we made the decision it was definitely at the hands of God because of how smoothly things fell into place. We feel very blessed to have found our church family so quickly. We look forward to the future here at First Presbyterian Church.



## It's Holly Berry Time Again!

*Submitted by Cheryl Pittman*

How quickly time flies! It is time to prepare for our annual Holly Berry Bazaar, which will be held on Saturday, November 9, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

Our roll workshops are scheduled for Thursday, October 24, Monday, October 28, and Friday, November 1. This is a time to gather and make our famous yeast rolls for Holly Berry. We usually sell between 80-90 dozen rolls, so this is no small task!! We begin at 8:30 a.m. and finish at about 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining this fun activity, which involves getting your hand in the "dough", please

watch for sign up sheets and recipes to appear in the narthex. NO experience is necessary! In addition to rolls, we sell baked goods (pies, cakes and sweet breads), cookies, and other goodies. Please begin your preparations early - we sold out of cookies last year.

The Tea Room is always a hit on Holly Berry day! We provide breakfast items and juice and coffee for our customers so they can sit and enjoy the chance to visit with old friends. We will also have sign up sheets for quiche, casseroles, and other items for the Tea Room breakfast.

There will not be an Attic Treasures room this year. This has become a very labor intensive activity and we no longer feel we can devote the time and energy needed to make it successful.

So mark your calendars because Holly Berry will be here very soon. This event provides a substantial amount of the funds used for the Need Line Backpack Program we sponsor in December. Many volunteers are needed to make it a success!

## Rescheduled Soup, Sandwich & Games Fellowship

*Submitted by Kathie Fleming*

**Join us! Saturday, October 26, 2019**

**12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Please plan to join the Fellowship Committee for our rescheduled afternoon of lunch and games in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 26, from noon to 2:00 pm. Bring your favorite board game and either a pot of soup, a batch of sandwiches, or a dessert to share with the gang assembled. The sign up sheet has been on the table in the narthex for a few weeks and we've just changed the date. Hope to see you there for some food and fun!

### **Fellowship Coffees**

On Sunday, October 13, right after church, join us for a few minutes of fellowship. Bring a tasty finger food treat to share, and visit with those you worship with. Fellowship Coffees provide a great opportunity to get to know your church family.

# Soup for the Soul



## Soup for the Soul

*Submitted by Marcie Johnson*

At our September 16 Soup for the Soul workday, Shirley Latto offered a grace that reminded us all of the importance of the "fellowship of the table"--an emblem of the community we want First Presbyterian Church to develop and provide.

Certainly the generous volunteers who gave their time and energy that day illustrated a wonderful fellowship and a desire to bring nourishment and comfort to the hungry. Lavish thanks, then, to Patsy Chaney, Shirley Latto, Donna Leigh, and Ken Wolf, who prepared the meal and served the first guests; to George Kipphut and Jerry and Renee Meyer, who arrived as soon as they could to finish serving and to help clean up; special honors to Donna Leigh, who worked both shifts, and to Todd French, who answered the call to come lead the clean-up effort.

Ann Stanley has worked for several years to ensure that FPC has a role in Murray's hospitality to the hungry, and she gave cheerful encouragement and a great example to the others she recruited. Especially now that Ann is needing to hand this effort on to others, we need your help to ensure that First Presbyterian sustains this ministry.

Our commitment is to serve six times a year--on the third Mondays of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November. That means that our next Soup for the Soul workday will be Monday, November 18. If you can offer ANY time between 2:15-6:30 p.m. that evening, please let Ann Stanley or Marcie Johnson know. We'll be delighted to welcome your help.

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.



## Presbyterian Women

*Submitted by Cheryl Pittman*

The Presbyterian Women will meet on Monday, October 7 at 11:30 a.m. in the session room. Shirley Latto is our hostess, so bring your lunch and dessert will be provided. ALL women in the church are Presbyterian Women and are welcome!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5  
4:00 PM  
at First Presbyterian Church  
1601 Main St Murray, KY  
Free and open to the public

An Afternoon Recital  
with  
Pianist Christy D'Ambrosio  
and  
Kate Tombaugh, mezzo-soprano  
Ashley Cumming, french horn  
Kelsey Blanco, soprano  
Maribeth Crawford, soprano  
Amy McCann Toeller, clarinet

Free-will offering will directly benefit the  
FPC Choral/Intern Fund

## Midweek Meals

*Submitted by Kelly Holland*

Our Wednesday night Midweek Oasis Meals for the month of October have been scheduled! Our featured Caterer will be **The Keg**. This month, adult meals will cost \$10 and children's meals (same entree, kid-sized portions) will cost \$5.

The meal is served at 5:30 p.m. each evening. Please reserve your meal(s) the Sunday before each Wednesday. The meal is optional. You may bring in your own meal(s) if that works better for you!

**October 2:**

- Smoked Ham
- Mac and Cheese
- Salad

**October 9:**

- No Midweek Oasis

**October 16:**

- Beef Brisket
- Baked Potato Casserole
- Salad

**October 23:**

- Grilled Chicken Breast
- Broccoli Cheese and Rice Casserole
- Salad

**October 30:**

- Pulled Pork
- Baked Beans
- Salad

## Head & Heart Update

*Submitted by Ken Wolf*

Head & Heart will meet on Thursday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m. We will begin a discussion of another Richard Rohr book, "Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self," (Jossey-Bass, 2013). It is a challenging but very compelling work on personal spiritual / psychological growth.

Perhaps we can make sense of Rohr's argument at our meeting on the 17 by reading and discussing the "Invitation," "Preface," and the first two chapters on, "the True Self" and, "The False Self." I will try to come up with some questions or notes to share.

Blessings to each and all. Questions? Ken Wolf: (270) 293-5502.

## Beth Belote Circle

The Beth Belote Circle meets from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month throughout the academic year, almost always at Debbie Burgess's home, 1710 Audubon. Debbie's hospitality includes not only a warm welcome but also a generous array of appetizers, with wines. This year's presentations focus on experiences of faith, with a different guide each month. Our October 3 meeting will feature Debbie herself (and perhaps a guest speaker); Cindy Barnett will deliver the presentation for the November 7 meeting; Patsy Chaney will lead us on December 5. We will be delighted if you can join us for any or all of these gatherings--no homework, no preparation needed: just a willing spirit.

## McKenzie-Moore Circle

The McKenzie-Moore Circle will meet at the home of Bev Reuter on Monday, October 14 at 1:00 p.m. We will begin a new study, "Believing Jesus: A Journey Through the Book of Acts." Refreshments will be provided. All women are welcome to join us!

## 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
September	\$0	0 Units of Service

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



## Church Bonfire & Weenie Roast

*Submitted by Renee Meyer*

The Meyers invite everyone to their home, at 631 Oaks Country Club Road in Murray, on Saturday, October 19 at 5:00 p.m. for a bonfire and wiener roast in celebration of Jerry's birthday. There will be hot chocolate and s'mores so please bring the whole family! There is plenty of property for the children to run around and have a great time too!

Bring your lawn chairs! This is weather dependent. If it is raining, we will have to cancel. No gifts or cards—your attendance is gift enough!!

## Clerk's Corner

*Submitted by Carol Allen*

### Stated Session Meeting

**September 12, 2019**

#### Action taken:

- Approved the recommendation from the Task Force for the Future and the Stewardship Committee to participate in online giving administered by the Presbyterian Foundation
- Approved the purchase of an electronic church sign with a pledge having been received to match the funds already received
- Received into active membership by transfer of letter Bill, Su Jin, and Hannah McKibbon and Chris and Kelly Holland
- Approved the proposed 2020 budget of \$204,192

## Financial Report

*Submitted by George Kippbut*

### Financial Report

- 2019 General Fund Income as of September 26, 2019 - \$139,8312
- 2019 General Fund Expenses as of September 26, 2019 - \$137,262

Year-to-Date statements of your contributions through early September have been distributed. The 2020 Pledge Campaign is about to begin. Pledge Cards should be returned by November 3.

## October Birthdays

Andrea French, Oct 2  
Ken Wolf, Oct 2  
Roger Weis, Oct 9  
Eva Hopkins, Oct 10  
Anne Adams, Oct 10  
Cabot French, Oct 11  
Carol Allen, Oct 12  
Ann Wells, Oct 15  
Todd French, Oct 17  
Jerry Meyer, Oct 22  
Kaycee Byrd, Oct 24  
Aubrey Crawford, Oct 27



## October Anniversaries

Kaycee and Zach Byrd  
Kate Tombaugh and Steven Weimer

## The Leaves

**The leaves had a wonderful frolic.  
They danced to the wind's loud song.  
They whirled, and they floated, and scampered.  
They circled and flew along.**

**The moon saw the little leaves dancing.  
Each looked like a small brown bird.  
The man in the moon smiled and listened.  
And this is the song he heard.**

**The North Wind is calling, is calling,  
And we must whirl round and round,  
And then, when our dancing is ended,  
We'll make a warm quilt for the ground.**

*-Anonymous*



**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

### Church Members and Regular Attendees

Janine Kruger	Medical mission trip to North Korea Oct 7-17
Cheryl Pittman	Foot and hand nerve pain
Chris Holland	Recovery from shoulder surgery
Marilyn Miller	Cancer treatment is complete. Scans to determine treatment success will be done during first week of October
Ann Stanley	Recovery from surgery
Jamie Helton	Passing of her husband, Roy
Sal Matarazzo	At Brookdale
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
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

Family of Marilyn Beale

Family of Margaret Boone

Family of Rita Hendon

Family of Hubert Stroud

Melissa (Emma Whitt's mother)

Health issues

Employees of Briggs & Stratton

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