

# FPC CONNECTIONS

First Presbyterian Church | 1601 Main St., Murray, KY 42071 | (270) 753-6460



## Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer

Clerk of Session:

Treasurer: George Kipphut

Admin Assistant: Andrea French

Campus Ministry Director: Lisa Polivick

MOTA Intern: Natasha Purcell

Children & Youth Ministry Director: Kelly Holland

Music Director: Emma Whitt

Accompanist: Christy D'Ambrosio

W&W 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

As we close one decade and begin a new one, I am conscious of many things. I am first of all deeply grateful to God for all the grace that I have witnessed flowing within this congregation, as well as within folks I've met in the community, and of course I am grateful for the blessings of family and friends that make life truly joyful. As we begin the new decade, I am hopeful for that future. I would be less-than-honest if I did not say I am not also anxious about it. I am. But as a good friend keeps telling me, "Don't be anxious about the future. God will provide. Have faith." Perhaps we do make things more complicated than it needs to be. I think if we had to sum up our purpose in one sentence, what would we choose out of everything that has been written about Christianity over these 2,000-plus years? I think it would be (without getting too descriptive): Our purpose as Christians is to help people cultivate a relationship with the Divine as we deepen discipleship and ministry within and through community.

In other words, it is about the Great Commission. And no, it is not for the same reasons that some of our Southern Baptist friends and our Church of Christ friends share the gospel. We don't share the love of Christ because we think our friends and neighbors who don't go to church are "lost" (whatever that means), or are outside of God's saving grace, or are going to hell, or whatever fate some Christians have decided awaits other folks in the hereafter. The only reason I personally want to share my faith with someone else,



## Join Us!



### Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday  
Morning at 7 a.m.

Jan 1, No Breakfast

Jan 8, Hih Burger

Jan 15, Martha's

Jan 22, Rudy's

Jan 29, Cracker Barrel



### Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at  
11:45 a.m.

Jan 2, Mr. B's

Jan 9, Dumplin's

Jan 16, Sirloin Stockade

Jan 23, August Moon

Jan 30, Don Dol

who is without that kind of experience, is simply because it has given my life meaning in a way that I cannot fathom being without. Religion and the religious community provide strength of presence and prayers that give comfort during all kinds of difficulties. In response to this grace, and as members of a community of faith that follows the model of Jesus, we then work for equality and justice for all of God's people, and therefore our mission is never finished.

So, Church Family, be prepared for 2020 to be a year that is filled with many new initiatives, some of which will add to our number. These initiatives and these new folks will mean change. Just keep in mind, if the changes start to get your bristles up, we are actually just trying to help other folks have the same joy and meaning that your spiritual walk has had for you. That's all we are trying to do at the end of the day. It's about helping people have a relationship with God, and introducing them to a truly welcoming community where they can grow spiritually. That's it. No more, no less. Let's please remember that at the end of the day. If we can hold relationship as central, then we will be just fine. Most of the rest is non-essential.

Looking ahead, I have no idea what initiatives are coming. I just know they are coming! 2020 is going to be an exciting year!! I think it is going to be wonderful! God is about to do some fantastic things at FPC. Actually, God has already started doing some pretty visionary things. The sky is the limit! Let us pray to discern where God is leading us. Let us pray for the courage to follow where the Spirit is leading us. Let us pray for openness to new ideas from new people, who may be sent by God for that purpose. Pray that we might always be gracious and hospitable, even in the midst of growth and change.

This is going to be a great year! I feel it in my bones!

Shalom, Pastor Renee

## Presbyterian Women

*Submitted by Cheryl Pittman*

Presbyterian Women will meet in the Session room at First Presbyterian Church at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, January 6. Ann Stanley will be our hostess. All women are welcome to attend!

## Beth Belote Circle

Debbie Burgess will welcome women of the Beth Belote Circle to her home, 1710 Audubon, on Thursday, January 2, 2020. We meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and invite all women who'd like to join us--for just this meeting or for every first-Thursday of the month. No homework preparation is required!

## McKenzie-Moore Circle

The McKenzie-Moore Circle will meet at the home of Bev Reuter at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 13. We will continue our study of "Believing Jesus: A Journey through the book of Acts." All women are welcome to join us!



## Soup for the Soul

*Submitted by Andrea French*

Our next day to host Soup for the Soul is coming up on January 20, 2020! If you would like to volunteer in the kitchen, for any amount of time,

please get in touch with Marcie Johnson (270) 753-5531, or Ann Stanley (270) 753-8747. The two shifts typically run from 2:00-4:30 p.m., and then 4:30-6:30 p.m., but any amount of time you can volunteer would be appreciated!

## Head & Heart

*Submitted by Ken Wolf*

Head and Heart will meet in the New Year at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 2, 2020. We will share our thoughts about the content of chapters 3-5 of Richard Rohr's "Immortal Diamond."

## Clerk's Corner

*Submitted by Carol Allen*

### Stated Session Meeting

**December 12, 2019**

#### Action taken:

- Received Kathy Stroud into active membership and approved Zayne Stroud's baptism
- Called a congregational meeting for December 22, 2019 to elect the nominating committee (Ann Stanley, Deanna Wolf, and Todd Wright), the elder class of 2022 (Laura Ken Hoffman, Sarah

Locke, and Chris Holland), elder class of 2021 (Morgan Randall), trustee class of 2022 (Ralph Pittman), approve the pastor's change of call and presentation of the 2020 budget

- Approved Rev. Meyer's request for a third week of continuing education and ten personal days along with her usual four weeks of vacation for 2020
- Upgraded the church's administrative assistant position to a full-time position with fifteen days of vacation, eighteen sick days and five personal days

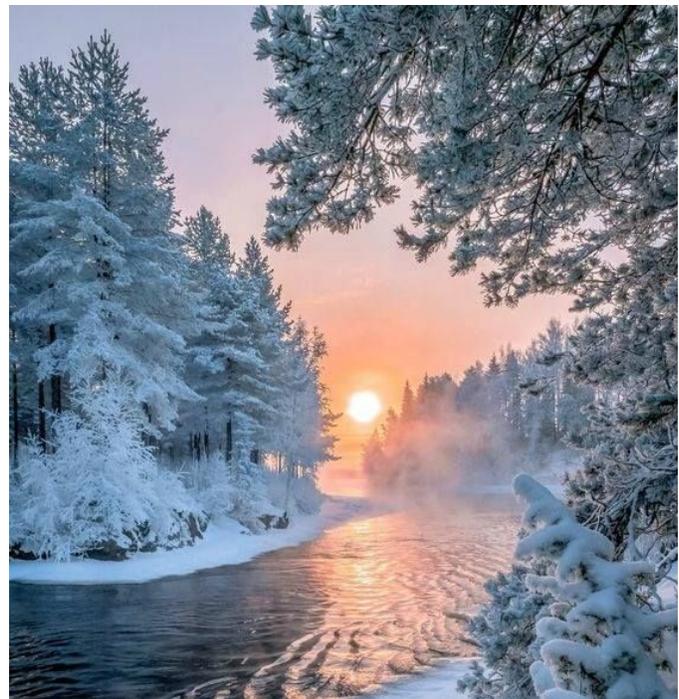
### **Special Called Session Meeting**

**December 15, 2019**

- Session approved the 2020 budget of \$204,120 with a deficit of \$2,972.

## January Birthdays

Carleen Belcher, Jan 1  
Soojin McKibben, Jan 2  
Charlie Jenkins, Jan 4  
Patsy Chaney, Jan 4  
Tanner Jones, Jan 4  
Juli McClain, Jan 5  
Chris Holland, Jan 5  
Marion O'Rourke, Jan 7  
Joe Belcher, Jan 12  
Lily Levering, Jan 14  
Debbie Burgess, Jan 19  
Kathey Shaw, Jan 20  
Steve Rayburn, Jan 22  
Bill Stewart, Jan 25



## January Anniversaries

Kathey & Paul Shaw, Jan 24  
Carleen & Joe Belcher, Jan 27



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

## Prayer Concerns

### Church Members and Regular Attendees

Carol Allen	Home
Andrea Howe	Testing
Sue Cochran	Recovery at home
Dennis Mills	Passing of his friend, Brian O'Neil
Kathie and Don Fleming	Passing of their grandson, Adam Seo
Cheryl Pittman	Foot and hand nerve pain
Chris Holland	Recovery from shoulder surgery
Marilyn Miller	Recovery
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	Home
Deanna Wolf	For continued strength & recovery
Marcie Johnson	Breast cancer treatments
Sue and George Cochran	Passing of Sue's daughter, Susie Taylor
Paul Shaw	Declining health due to Parkinson's Disease
Mary Lynn Christensen	Alzheimer's, Spring Creek #129

### Family and Friends of the Congregation

Angela Locke	Sarah's mother, surgery recovery
Emilia Montgomery	Philip's daughter, recovery
Kevin Wolf	Surgery recovery, new diabetes diagnosis

Bruce Pittman	Heart attack
Sherry Willits	Surgery recovery (Sue Cochran's sister)
David Schaaf & Family	Andrea French's friend, stage IV melanoma, treatment
Mickey Alba	Dialysis (Laynie Mitchell's brother)
Eddie DePauw	Pneumonia (Wolf's friend)
Melissa	Emma Whitt's mother, health concerns
Barbara Bush Meier	Cancer
Marcia Beam	Debbie Hixon's friend
Jacob Brown	Emma Whitt's friend
Family of Margaret Boone	
Family of Rita Hendon	
Employees of Briggs & Stratton	
Jim McCollouch (Maribeth Crawford's father)	Prostate cancer treatments
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