

# 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: Ken Wolf

Treasurer: George Kipphut

Admin Assistant: Andrea French

Campus Ministry Director: Lisa Polivick

MOTA Intern: vacant

Children & Youth Ministry Director: Kelly Holland

Music Director: vacant

Accompanist: Julie Park

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.

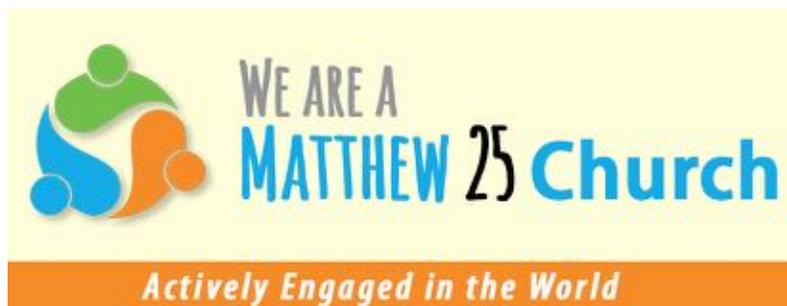
## From Pastor Renee's Desk

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer*

The Session has unanimously voted to become a Matthew 25 congregation. This initiative of our denomination is based on the parable in Matthew 25 where Jesus says that whenever we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, offer hospitality to the stranger, or visit those in prison—we are doing his will and we therefore may as well be ministering to Christ himself.

As a Matthew 25 congregation we commit to working one or more of these areas: eradicating poverty, dismantling systemic racism, and/or increasing congregational vitality. The session feels like we have been working on congregational vitality for a while through initiatives such as the Task Force for the Future. Because of how the pandemic has hard hit the economy, with record numbers of people unemployed, and children who go to bed hungry every night, we knew that fighting poverty had to be one of our choices. Our MOTA community garden is the first initiative for fighting poverty in our community. Lisa Polivick's article will provide an update about the wonderful garden and what MOTA has been able to donate to Need Line so far to this end.

Thankfully, we were not limited to just one initiative



## Join Us!



### Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday

Morning at 7 a.m.

August 5, Rudy's

August 12, Cracker Barrel

August 19, Hih Burger

August 26, Martha's



### Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at

11:45 a.m.

August 6, Cracker Barrel

August 13, Mr. B's

August 20, Dumplin's

August 27, Sirloin

Stockade

under Matthew 25, because if ever there was a clear call for the church to put its mind to work on racial reconciliation, now was one of those moments. There have been many of those moments in our American history, when the Church has had the opportunity to lead strong sustained efforts for racial equality, but has fallen far short and even found itself complicit in the very sin that it was supposed to be leading the charge against. PCMB is reading a great book that tells that history and it is called *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism* by Jemar Tisby. PCMB has also recommended that session members and the church at large read this book as well. I am also working with a broad coalition of Clergy from our community that will find initiatives on which we might work together, knowing that we must think about the long game and not just one or two initiatives and "we're finished". It will require lots of different types of events over months and years.

Our church will screen a documentary film *The Long Shadow*, followed by a discussion forum event via Zoom. This will be just the first initiative in our efforts toward racial reconciliation. We will be planning another exactly similar event specifically for Murray State's campus when fall semester is up and going. Here is an introduction to the film:

"Of all the divisions in America, none is as insidious and destructive as racism. The powerful documentary *The Long Shadow* takes a shockingly candid look at America's original sin – slavery – and traces the history of slavery from the country's founding, up through its insidious ties to racism today. We witness, from the moment of America's birth, how slavery was embedded in principal structural elements of society, and yet, even as slavery ended, these systems still operate today in various forms, carrying out their original purpose - to diminish the social role of black people and keep them in a perpetual state of suffering.

Director Frances Causey and Producer Sally Holst, both privileged daughters of the South, were haunted by their families' slave-owning pasts. They analyze their own family history, pulling no punches regarding how they have participated in the oppression and subjugation of black people due to systemic racism. Causey states: "I am a filmmaker and journalist. On my odyssey to investigate racism in America I was stunned to discover that I was the problem. My family codified white supremacy into law."

We will make available a free virtual screening of the film

from August 5-12; dates before and after the forum. That way if folks join the discussion before they get to watch the film it gives them a window to watch it after the event. There will be an abbreviated 15 minute version and a full 90 minute version to choose from.

The Zoom Q & A event is scheduled for Sunday, August 9 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Director Frances Causey will join us, along with Dr. Brian Clardy, Dr. David Pizzo, and myself, answering questions posed by the audience. Then from 6:00-7:00 p.m., David, Brian, & I will remain with anyone in the audience who wishes to continue the conversation. We would like for questions to be submitted ahead of time if possible. You will need to RSVP for the Zoom event being held on August 9. Information about how to register for the Zoom event will be released next week.

I hope that you will join us. These are hard, but necessary conversations.

Here is a link to the official trailer: <http://thelongshadowfilm.com>

Grace and peace,

Pastor Renee

## Parking Lot Worship Service August 2, 2020

*Photo from July 5, 2020 Parking Lot Service Submitted by Chris Adams*

You are invited to join us for a parking lot worship service, which will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 2. Communion will be served, but you will need to bring your own bread and juice with you. Please tune your radios to 92.7 FM as the service will be broadcasted through your radio!

Please enter the parking lot from Poplar Street so you may pick up your bulletin and drop off your offering. You will not be parking in our usual parking spaces because your vehicle will need to face the church entrance where Pastor Renee will be standing. Therefore, you will be guided to your parking spot. After the service, you will exit the parking lot from the side that faces 16th street.

You may keep your vehicle running during the service if you wish. The service will be held rain or shine, but it will be canceled in the event of lightning. We hope you will be able to join us!





## Just Waiting for You: Just Coffee Is Available Again!

*Submitted by Marcie Johnson*

The hallway table now holds a basket of freshly-roasted, freshly-delivered Just Coffee arabica-ground and whole bean, dark roast and regular, plus decaf in the dark roast, too. When you are ready to purchase, please bring either a check (made out to

"Presbyterian Women" or simply "PW") or cash for the exact amount, \$12/pound.

You can step in, choose your coffee bags, leave your payment, and wave to Andrea or Renee through the glass office door. Remember, please, that we are still trying to keep one another safe, so we do not have provisions for giving change.

This newest order contains 23 bags, so they may sell quickly. Once we know how welcome Just Coffee is in this new arrangement, we'll order more and offer more options. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy the coffee!

## Laundry Love

*Submitted by Shirley Latto*

After a short period in the months of April and May, we thought Covid-19 was at a point that would be low enough to allow for an in-person Laundry Love event on August 31. Sadly, the alarming number of cases identified and the overwhelming sadness at the loss of 3 lives in our community prevent this important outreach event from being held safely.

To continue our efforts to meet this ongoing need, we will donate \$250 toward the purchase of I-Wash cards that will be distributed to the Family Resource & Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs) at each County and City school. Teachers and FRYSC administrators will identify students who are most in need of assistance with laundry. While this is not ideal and does not assist persons not associated with the schools, it is the best option we are able to provide presently. FPC continues to assist Need Line through donations and it is our hope the needs of of our community are addressed through this effort.

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, I wish to send a heartfelt **thank you** to all our volunteers who have worked with Laundry Love, and all who have so generously and compassionately supported this effort.



---

Pastor Renee will be in Kansas City for Willow's 2nd birthday celebration and visit from August 10-17. She will tape the August 16 worship service before she leaves. Please pray for safe travels for both Pastor Renee and Jerry!



## Community Garden Update

*Submitted by Lisa Polivick*



MOTA Campus Ministry  
Ministry Open To All

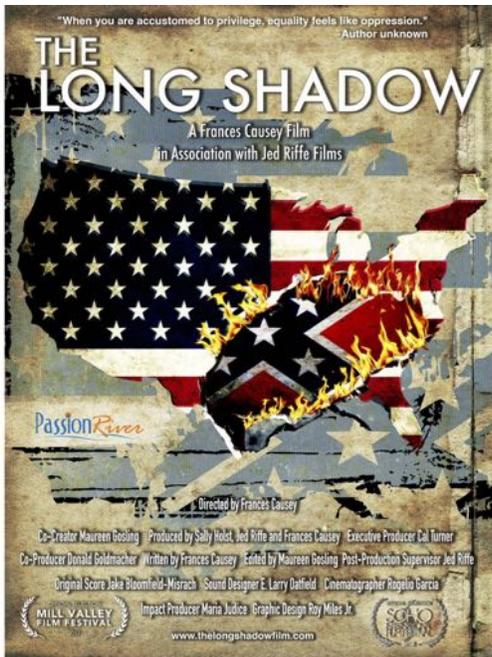
The MOTA community garden has already yielded **150 pounds** of produce that has been donated to Need Line. Bryant Harrison, Sarah Locke, Lisa Polivick, and Dewayne Polivick planted the community garden and are currently giving its produce to help feed the poor in our community. They have donated squash, okra, cucumbers, and tomatoes. MOTA Director Lisa

Polivick said, “ We planted over seventy tomato plants, so we should have tomatoes up until the fall.” When brainstorming ways for MOTA to be of service to the community during the coronavirus, the PCMB suggested that we do something to alleviate poverty, which will be exacerbated by the loss of jobs during the pandemic. Terri Ford, a PCMB member, suggested that we grow a garden to help provide fresh produce to our neighbors. Her church began a garden two years ago. MOTA members decided the best way to distribute the food equitably would be to let Need Line give it to their customers. Vegetables are usually gathered and donations made three times a week. The project will continue until the garden no longer bears food.

## New Zoom Worship Service August 23 & 30

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer*

Dear church family, on August 23 and August 30 we are starting something new: Worship Service via Zoom! Starting at 10:00 a.m. on both Sundays, this will be very relaxed experience, offering the opportunity to enjoy one another’s company, albeit virtually. I am hoping that it will be interactive and engaging. Therefore, if you would like to sing or play an instrument for us, please let me know. If you have a special request for a well-known song, we will share that in advance so we can sing/play together. Wouldn’t that be awesome? Well, at least it seems that easy on T.V. Instead of having an Affirmation of Faith, I would love for one or two people to volunteer to tell their faith story (the short version). Our Children & Youth Ministry Director, Kelly Holland, will be doing a children’s sermon for the kids so they will want to be tuned in for that! I will reach out a couple weeks ahead of the service and ask various people if they would like to read scripture or offer a prayer. I think it might neat if we had volunteers read something they have written. It can be about anything really! For example, How has the pandemic affected you and your family? What has that done to your spirit? How connected/disconnected to others have you felt? How has fear affected your life? How has your faith comforted you in the midst of your fears? These are just some of my initial ideas. I hope to hear from you and I look forward to making this a meaningful experience for everyone.



## FPC and MOTA will Host *The Long Shadow* Film Screening and Zoom Q & A Event

### View The Film From Aug 5-12

View the film at your leisure any time from Aug 5-12. We will share that link with you next week. For now, you may watch the film trailer [here](#).

### Zoom Q & A Event with the Director on Sunday, August 9 at 5:00 p.m.

The registration link for the Q & A Zoom Event will be shared next week.

First Presbyterian Church of Murray Kentucky and MOTA Campus Ministry will host a free screening and Zoom discussion event featuring *The Long Shadow*, a film by Director Francis Causey. This week-long online screening of *The Long Shadow* film is a part of our Matthew 25 Church Initiative of dismantling structural racism in our communities. To learn more about the Presbyterian Church (USA) Matthew 25 initiative, please click [here](#). To learn more about our efforts of dismantling structural racism through this initiative, please click [here](#).

Then, a live online discussion will be held via Zoom on Sunday, August 9 with Director Frances Causey from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. The discussion will continue among interested participants until 7:00 p.m. Thank you for helping us spread the word about this important event. You are encouraged to invite your friends and family.

For more information about this screening, MOTA Campus Ministry, or about the Matthew 25 Initiative, email Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer at [rev.reneemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:rev.reneemeyer@gmail.com).



## FPC Outreach Service Activities for August

FPC Donates \$500 to CASA

FPC Donates \$83 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

FPC Donates \$500 from Pastor's Discretionary Fund to Need Line for Additional Support



## New! Thursday Zoom Coffee & Fellowship

*Submitted by Andrea French*

First Presbyterian Church will begin a new Zoom Coffee & Fellowship ministry that will meet at 10:30 a.m. every Thursday, beginning on August 6. Meeting over the internet safely at home, you are invited to grab a cup of coffee and spend some much-needed time with your church family via Zoom. There will be no agenda. This will simply be a time for

fellowship with one another. Everyone is welcome to attend. A link to join will be sent out in the next week.



## A Note From FPC Music Director, Emma Whitt

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

To say that these past few months have been crazy would be a gross understatement. Things have been changing by the day in the wake of COVID-19, and still are. While it is difficult to know "what happens next," we can continue to find comfort in knowing that we are a strong community of faith, even when we must worship from a distance.

I want to offer my most sincere thanks to each of you for welcoming me with open hearts and minds as your Music Director.

This past year of service has been both a learning experience and a spiritually fulfilling one.

That being said, I have accepted a full financial package from the University of Kentucky, and will be moving to Lexington at the end of this month to pursue my Master's Degree in Vocal Performance.

I recently thought that I wasn't going to be able to attend graduate school this coming Fall, but with the way financial aid has been delayed at many institutions, news came much later than expected.

It is less than ideal to announce this via a letter, but alas, this is our reality for the time being. It breaks my heart to know that our time together was cut short, but please know how much I will miss you, and how grateful I am for the amount of support and love you have given me over the past several years. When I came to FPC to join the choir as an intern, I never expected it to feel so much like home.

I hope that you continue to find joy in your music making, even through times of change. It has been an absolute privilege to join you in worship. Stay safe, and keep singing!

## August Birthdays

Betty Rayburn, August 2  
 Joelle French, August 6  
 Susan Stewart, August 8  
 Don Fleming, August 11  
 Janine Kruger, August 13  
 Vicki Jo Valentine, August 18  
 Ryn Jenkins, August 19  
 Robert Valentine, August 26  
 Ella Byrd, August 29  
 Emma Whitt, August 29



## 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

## Prayer Concerns

### Church Members and Regular Attendees

Reba Vogel and Family	Passing of her husband, Bob Vogel
George Cochran	Passing of his aunt, Berta
Sue Cochran	Passing of her sister, Sherry
Steve Rayburn and Jeri Lake	Passing of Steve's uncle Jim Rayburn
Jerry Meyer	Healing from phlebitis
Maribeth Crawford and Family	Passing of her grandfather, Jim McCullouch
Eva Hopkins and Liz Gilliam	Passing of their brother, James Woods
Jamie Helton	Broken leg, recovery
Marion and Pete O'Rourke	Passing of their son, Peter Francis O'Rourke III
Marilyn Miller	Passing of her husband, Cary Miller; Recovery
Joan and Whitey Adams	Passing of their nephew, Ruben Adams
Debbie Burgess	Recovery from back pain
Cindy Barnett	Passing of her father, Bill Williams
Cheryl Pittman	Foot and hand nerve pain

Sal Matarazzo	At Brookdale
Eva Hopkins	Home
Paul Shaw	Declining health due to Parkinson's Disease
Mary Lynn Christensen	Alzheimer's, Spring Creek #129

## **Family and Friends of the Congregation**

### Essential Workers and Families affected by Covid-19

Courtney Fall	Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer's daughter, prayers for a healthy pregnancy
Rev. Dr. Steve Montgomery	Rev. David M. Montgomery's brother, recovery from bike accident
Elysa	Rev. David M. Montgomery's sister in law, neck surgery recovery
Richard Scott	Rev. Carol Wade's brother, open heart surgery recovery
Julie Wallace	Jerry Meyer's daughter, recovery from parathyroid surgery
Patricia Messick	Barbara Conley's sister, stage IV lung cancer
Russ Clendenin	Finding a new service dog for his diabetes
Family & friends of Bob Broyles	
Ryken Stenberg	Great Grandson to Deanna and Ken Wolf, home
Jeannine Thelen	Continued recovery from Covid-19
Hannah Rayburn-Lake	Recovery after back surgery
Kent McCammon	Friend of Kelly and Chris Holland, stage IV pancreatic and liver cancer
Sonia Fall	Renee's son-in-law's mother, pulmonary fibrosis of lungs
Nancy Goselin	Todd Goselin's mother
Bruce Pittman	Hospice Care
Pat Pittman	Ralph Pittman's son
Employees of Briggs & Stratton	
Jim McCollouch (Maribeth Crawford's father)	Prostate cancer
Baby Finn (Family friend of Hoffmans)	Stage 4 cancer, chemotherapy is finished.
Darcy Hendricks (Tana Field's friend)	Recovery from brain stem stroke