

# 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: Asia Blanton  
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*

If you are planning on coming to church on Sunday, October 4 at 10:45 a.m., then you will first need to watch an instructional video about returning to in person worship that the staff and elders have prepared for you. This will go out via email and will be available on our website at [fpcmurray.com](http://fpcmurray.com). by Friday, October 2.

I know that everyone will be excited to return to the church for worship, however in order for us to be able to continue to have public worship together we must abide by the guidelines as set forth by the CDC and adopted by the session of FPC. The only way that we can ensure that a group our size is properly distanced means that we will not be visiting in the area outside of the sanctuary before worship begins. On your arrival, the ushers will accompany you to a seat inside the sanctuary where you are asked to remain until the service is over and an usher dismisses your pew.

If you would like to visit with one another you are asked to do so outside in the parking lot. We hope that even outside you will be mindful of social distancing so



# Join Us!



## Men's Breakfast

*Every Wednesday  
Morning at 7 a.m.*

- Oct 7, Cracker Barrel
- Oct 14, Hih Burger
- Oct 21, Martha's
- Oct 28, Rudy's



## Lunch Bunch

*Every Thursday at  
11:45 a.m.*

- Oct 1, Culver's
- Oct 8, Cracker Barrel
- Oct 15, Mugsy's
- Oct 22, Big Apple
- Oct 29, Jasmine Thai

that you will have one another's safety as your highest priority.

We will be Live Streaming on Facebook at 10:45 a.m., so if you are feeling like it is better for you to continue to worship virtually then you will have the option of joining us while worship is taking place OR you may watch the recording of the service at a later time. You do not have to have a Facebook account in order to watch us on Facebook Live. If you have a Facebook account, be sure to LIKE our **church Facebook page** so that you will automatically get the notification when we go live on Sunday mornings! If you do not have a Facebook account—no worries, you will be able to click on a link on our website that will take you right to the live worship service. How neat is that?

The presbytery has generously offered every church \$1,500 for equipment or technology in order to be able to have/continue with virtual worship services. We already had \$400 in our technology wish fund, so combined with the presbytery grant we have purchased a laptop and a special camera will be installed in order to maintain our virtual presence. If you are interested in assisting Cameron Witte and/or Chris Adams in this effort, it probably would not hurt to have at least one or two additional relief people in the wings to take over when our main technology person is out or not available.

I hope that you will understand that worship will not be exactly like it was before the pandemic. Try to frame it in terms of us taking more time for introspection, meditation, and prayerful reflection. No, it won't be the same. We don't have control of that right now—the virus does. All we can do is offer God our prayers in a spirit of love and joyful cooperation, knowing that these days will not last forever.

The seasons are clearly changing. Time is marching on. I pray God's rich blessings on you and your family. Remember, time is the most important commodity that we have. Cherish the moments you have with your family. Stay healthy and safe.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Renee



MOTA Campus Ministry  
Ministry Open To All

Dear Friends of First Presbyterian,

PCUSA has focused on our denomination's commitment to alleviate poverty and fight systemic racism by promoting its Matthew 25 initiative. MOTA has been actively supporting our church's participation in both areas. We maintained a garden over the spring and summer and donated over two hundred pounds of fresh vegetables to Need Line. We have also hired a new intern, Asia Blanton, who is introducing herself in another article. Asia graduated from Murray High School and will be an excellent ambassador for our church at the university and in the community. At the present, I am

working on converting the MOTA house to be used as a type of "Need Line" for MSU. We are hoping to provide nonperishable food items and school supplies to needy students. We have requested a grant from the Presbytery to purchase these items.

To combat racism and poverty in our community, Asia and I have supported peaceful protests to move the Confederate statue from the square. Asia has also participated in creative new ways to support other racial justice initiatives, as she describes in her article. To address poverty, she has initiated a drive to collect used calculators from students who no longer need them to give to students who can't afford to buy them. She became aware of this need when an acquaintance was trying to successfully complete a math class without a calculator because she couldn't afford to buy one.

Since Trick-or-Treating has been canceled in Murray, MOTA is planning to host a "Trunk or Treat" event in our church parking lot for our church's youth. We will be asking people to come to the parking lot and allow kids to go around and get candy and treats out of the back of our vehicles. MOTA will organize the event and provide a lot of the candy. We are so excited about being in church with everyone in October. It will be so good to gather for worship and fellowship. We are so thankful that God continues to watch over us during these difficult times.

In Christian Service,

Lisa Polivick

## Financial Report

*Submitted by George Kipphut*

**2020 General Fund Income as of September 25 - \$123,763**

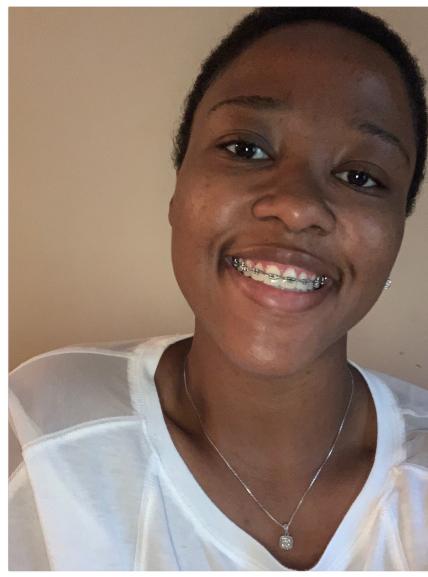
**2020 General Fund Expenses as of September 25 - \$133,958**

A continued thank you to members and friends who provided financial support to FPC during the summer months. The Fall Stewardship Campaign will begin in October. If you need an update on your record of contributions for 2020, please contact the Church Office at (270) 753-6460 or [fpcmurray@hotmail.com](mailto:fpcmurray@hotmail.com).

## Clerk's Corner

*Submitted by Ken Wolf*

- Discussion of Budget: Current year budget is balanced due to income received from CARES Act and Presbytery of Western Kentucky. Due in part to no plate collection funds for the past six months, budget projections for the coming year show a \$30,000 to \$40,000 expected reduction in anticipated income. Pledge letters will be sent soon.
- Session voted to restart in person worship services on Sunday, October 4 and also to schedule a Congregational Meeting following worship to discuss a change in the pastor's call—shifting funds from one account to another. Continuation of in-person worship on succeeding Sundays will depend upon how well attendees observe social distancing and mask guidelines.
- Church meetings—Session, Wednesday Oasis, Thursday morning “coffee”—have continued on Zoom. Pastoral phone calls and visits to congregation members, especially those on our prayer list, have continued.
- Session voted to appoint Session members Shirley Latto and Bill Stewart to the Nominating Committee to select three elders for the class of 2023. Three additional congregation members will be added to this committee



## Getting to Know You: MOTA Intern Asia Blanton!

*Submitted by Asia Blanton*

Hello everyone! My name is Asia Blanton. I was born and raised in Murray, Kentucky. I am a sophomore at Murray State University, seeking a Bachelors of Science degree in Occupational Safety and Health. This semester, I have the privilege of being a liaison between Ministry Open To All, the MSU student body, and the Murray community. Early last month, I planned the Calculator Project, which began September 8th. This community service initiative gives students an opportunity to donate TI-84 calculators they no longer use or need. Those calculators will be donated to MSU students that need them for their courses. I realize my peers do not have access to calculators for various reasons. I took initiative with this service project, because I want to help them. I hope to collect 20 calculators by October 8th.

Along with that, I have joined other organizations at community protests to promote racial and social equality. Every Saturday morning from 9-11 a.m., I attend the “Move the Monument” protests. Last Friday, September 25th, I attended and spoke at the Breonna Taylor March on the MSU campus. On Saturday, I attended two protests in Paducah. The first one resembled the protest in Murray, but the second was extraordinary. I went with a group of people to hand out

groceries to families in the neighborhood during the protest. The media displays violent scenes with fires and burning buildings when referring to protests. At the second Paducah “protest” we planted “Quick Fire” hydrangeas in memory of the Breonna Taylor.

## FPC Outreach Service Activities for October

- FPC Donates \$1,100 to Presbytery
- FPC Donates \$83 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund



### Save the Date!

Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Held On:

Thursday, October 15, 2020

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

## 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, Oct 12

Kate Tombaugh and Steven Weimer, Oct 25

# Prayer Concerns

## Church Members and Regular Attendees

Deanna Wolf	Recovery from knee replacement surgery, at Centennial Hospital in Nashville
Terry Foreman	Recovery at home
Dennis Mills	Recovery and management of atrial fibrillation
Baby Daniel	Albert and Julie Park's child, born early and thriving at home
Emma Whitt	Recovery from Covid-19
Corky Broughton	Recovery from hip surgery, physical therapy
Reba Vogel and Family	Passing of her husband, Bob Vogel
George Cochran	Passing of his aunt, Berta
Sue Cochran	Passing of her sister, Sherry
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
Cindy Barnett	Passing of her father, Bill Williams
Cheryl Pittman	Foot and hand nerve pain
Sal Matarazzo	At Brookdale
Eva Hopkins	Home, providing meals
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

Chris and Craig Russell     Steve Rayburn's friends, Chris is on hospice care for brain cancer

Jace Legend Rivera Cepeda     Cheryl and Ralph Pittman's Great Grandchild, born early and is thriving at home

Emily Lathem     Lisa Polivick's neice, recovery from brain surgery

Marilyn     Dewayne Polivick's mother, breast cancer

Debbie Burgess' Mother     Recovery from surgery

Family of Rev. Dr. Steve Montgomery

Courtney Fall	Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer's daughter, prayers for a healthy pregnancy
Elysa	Rev. David M. Montgomery's sister in law, neck 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