

# FPC CONNECTIONS

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



## Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Beth Dobyms  
Office Administrator: Andrea French  
Campus Ministry Director: Lisa Polivick  
MOTA Intern: Asia Blanton  
Youth Ministry Director: Vacancy  
Music Director: Clay Barnard  
Accompanist: Julie Park  
W&W Storyteller: Hannah McKibben  
Nursery Attendant: Vacancy  
Custodian: Monte Fisher  
Clerk of Session: Ken Wolf  
Treasurer: George Kipphut  
Office Hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Thoughts From Your Pastor

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Beth Dobyms*

Greetings! It has been and continues to be such a blessing to be a part of First Presbyterian Church in Murray! You have been so gracious in welcoming me into the community that is our congregation. I am grateful for the ways you share information and hospitality all along the way.

As we move ahead into the last of summer, we still rejoice in being able to be out and about safely after a year of isolation and caution. It is great to think about lively ministries that await us this fall. I hope that you will be a part of some of the things that interest you. Here is just a sampling of things to come:

- Choir practice on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Choir Room
- Worship continues at 10 a.m. on Sundays
- Worship and Wonder on Sundays during worship
- Presbyterian Women Brown Bag Lunch and Planning Meeting August 30 at 11:30 a.m. at the church
- Rally Day, August 22, beginning with breakfast at 9:45 a.m.

As part of the interim work of the congregation, I invite you to two very important events. These are all-church, "Designing Our Future" days. I hope you will make every effort to be present on August 29 and September 19 for some work together as we name and design some of the things that help us look toward a faithful, exciting future for First Presbyterian Church. Everything will be in play as we think about and make use of art, music, outreach, worship, and conversation, and of course, food! Every voice is welcome to join in each of these two-hour events. Make plans now to be involved; stay after worship for a light lunch and lively

# Join Us!



## Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday  
Morning at 7 a.m.

Aug 4, Rudy's

Aug 11, Cracker Barrel

Aug 18, Hih Burger

Aug 25, Martha's



## Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at  
11:45 a.m.

Aug 5, August Moon

Aug 12, Don Sol

Aug 19, The Keg

Aug 26, Tom's Grille

discussion.

It is an honor to be part of the ministry of this fine congregation. I look forward to getting better acquainted with you. See you in church!

## Rally Day August 22, 2021

*Submitted by Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman*

Rally Day is quickly approaching on August 22 and everyone is invited to attend our Potluck Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.! Bring your favorite food item and your appetite while enjoying breakfast and fellowship with others! We will provide coffee, milk, orange juice, and water. No sign-ups are required. Don't forget that Sunday School will then resume at 9:30 a.m. the following week on August 29. We will have light breakfast treats for the Sunday School classes that morning.

The Congregational Care & Fellowship Committee also plans to have some Ice Cream After Church events (dates to be determined), where people are encouraged to indulge in some ice cream before heading home for lunch! A few other ideas we are tossing around for this fall include Chili After Church, Trunk or Treat, and a Christmas Cookie Swap (including sugar cookies for children to decorate and take home). If you have other ideas, please feel free to let me know! These are just thoughts and can be modified as needed!



## CW&W

*Submitted by Shirley Latto*

Children Worship and Wonder will be introducing our new Storyteller, Hannah McKibben, at the August Rally Day. She is a Junior at Murray High, and is presently very busy with the marching band. She has been studying the worship materials and stories used in our children's sanctuary and presents the scripture to young people in a way they can embrace and remember the story.

Hannah is a valuable part of Children Worship and Wonder, and we need your help in supporting her and our children. We need an adult volunteer to be in the CWW sanctuary each Sunday and assist with helping get ready to listen to God

and follow the order of worship.

In the past we have had four adults who volunteered to assist and were able to rotate Sundays. We owe great thanks to Cheryl Pittman, Donna Leigh, and Barbara Conley for their service and commitment in helping develop and implement CWW. We miss having them with us and beg blessings for each. As we begin a new school year, we ask those of you who would like to follow in this tradition of guiding and encouraging young disciples, to volunteer for this enriching opportunity.

CWW follows the liturgical calendar and we also follow the four-fold order of worship, just as adults in the main sanctuary. The pleasure of being in the children's sanctuary and participating is always a blessing. We hope you will join us as a Greeter and become part of this 'Wonder-ful' and enriching experience.

If you are interested and willing to worship with us, please contact Shirley Latto. (270) 753-9852; (270) 873-9864; [lattoshirley@gmail.com](mailto:lattoshirley@gmail.com).



Committed to nurturing faith, supporting mission, working for justice, and building community.

## Presbyterian Women

*Submitted by Cheryl Pittman, Marcie Johnson*

WE'RE BACK!! Presbyterian Women will begin meeting again on Monday, August 30 at 11:30 a.m. in the Session room. This will be a brown bag lunch meeting and we will discuss plans for the 2021 Holly Berry Bake Sale and Bazaar this coming November 13! As you know, Holly Berry is our big fund raising

event for the Calloway County Backpack program, which provides food for children in need as well as other outreach programs such as Laundry Love. So please join us as we prepare to help those in our community!

**Unwanted Treasures?** Save them for November! The 2021 Holly Berry Bake Sale and Bazaar will once again offer "Attic Treasures" for sale. These items include dishware, table linens, serving pieces, vases, home decor, Christmas decorations, picture frames—things you aren't using but realize that someone else would be pleased to have. If you are noticing that your shelves and closets (and attics) need to be freed from too much stuff, please save those nice-but-no-longer-needed objects for the bazaar. While we don't have enough storage space at church to keep them ahead of time, you will be able to donate your treasures the week before Holly Berry, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 13.

**GIVE BLOOD**  
*You can make a difference.*



**American  
Red Cross**

### Save the Date!

**Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Held On:**

**Friday, August 6, 2021**

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



## Outreach

*Submitted by Shirley Latto*

### FPC Outreach Service Activities for August 2021:

- FPC Donates \$500 to CASA by the Lakes
- FPC Donates \$83 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

## Clerk's Report: June 14, 2021 Session Meeting

*Submitted by Dr. Ken Wolf, Clerk of Session*

Major discussions and actions at the June 14, 2021 Session meeting (held in person):

- Discussion of the need to continue our mission of presenting church worship and other events on video (Facebook and/or You Tube), perhaps including an upgrade in our equipment if necessary;
- Rally Day breakfast and pre-church meeting will be held on August 22, at which time Sunday School teachers will be introduced and congregants will be invited to join church committees; worship service will return to 10:45 a.m. on that date; Sunday School will begin the following Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
- Pastor Beth Dobyms and Session announced two important all-church meetings following worship on Sunday, August 29 and Sunday, September 19 to design the future of our church. All members and other congregants are urged to attend to decide who and what we want to be as a church. This is an important part of the Mission Study required by Presbytery before we can elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to help us select a new installed pastor.

## Soup for the Soul



## Soup's ON!

*Submitted by Marcie Johnson*

As a cheering sign that our community is gaining some confidence in emerging from the pandemic, Soup for the Soul is cautiously resuming its call for volunteer teams to help

prepare meals. Our first crew is ready to cook! Many thanks to Head Chef Zach Byrd and to his FPC staff for August 3: Cindy Barnett, Annie Wells, and Roger Weis.

First Presbyterian Church has been asked to help from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the first Tuesdays of alternating months, so our next assignment will be October 5. If you can help that afternoon, please contact Marcie Johnson ([mjohnson2@murraystate.edu](mailto:mjohnson2@murraystate.edu) or 270-853-0128) for more details...and lots of appreciation.

# Church Growth: Successful Church Outreach at Murray Pride Parade & Picnic

*Submitted by Andrea French, Morgan Randall*

The Church Growth Committee and MOTA, joined by Members of Session and FPC Church Members, hosted a table at the second annual Murray Pride Parade & Picnic, which was held at Chestnut Park on June 26, 2021. The successful event was the perfect opportunity to meet hundreds of new friends in Murray; we gained over 25 names and contact information from folks who wanted to learn more about our church and receive an invitation to visit us. We would sincerely like to thank those who supported us on this day!





New FPC Music Director, Clay Barnard (right) and his husband, Aidan Landis (left).

## FPC New Staff Spotlight: Clay Barnard

*Submitted by Clay Barnard*

Hello FPC!

My name is Clay Barnard (he/him), and I'm delighted to be your new Music Director. This past month went by so quickly as I was learning about this history of this church and meeting so many wonderful people! I cannot believe that we're already in August, but I'm glad we are. I'm thrilled to be bringing the choir back into the sanctuary (robes and all!), and I know that our members are excited to be back, too!

Since I'm brand new to you and the church, here's a thorough introduction to who I am, and a bit of how a Missouri kid ended up in western Kentucky.

Let's get some of the basics out of the way first. I'm 26 year old and married to a lovely man, Aidan, who is also 26. We are both musicians and we both love food (maybe a bit more than we should!). Aidan also does a bit of painting and artwork, and despite what he would say, his works are beautiful and absolutely

beyond my skill-set. As for music, I play piano, I sing, and I write music. I have been playing piano for 22 years, and I've been writing music for 12 years. In my time of writing, I've written over 250 pieces for a wide variety of ensembles and genres: concert band, choir, solo voice, big band, jazz groups, short-film scores, commercials...I've got a lot in that 250!

Now, how did I get here?! Well back in 2013, I arrived here in Murray as a freshman to Murray State. It was an obvious choice because both of my parents are alumni of MSU, so naturally it was on the list of college options. I graduated in 2017 with a degree in Music Composition, and a big plan...take a gap year and REST. I was absolutely exhausted when I graduated and I needed time, not only to rest, but also to search for graduate schools. At the time, that was what I thought the next step was going to be. Oh how wrong I was...

When I returned home from Murray, I had already lined up a job as an accompanist for the Jr. High and High School choirs in the district that I grew up in, and where my mother worked as an assistant choir director. During that year, I was applying to graduate schools for either a general Composition degree or a newer degree that goes by many names (since there is no standard yet), but it essentially boils down to "music for media" (think film-scoring). This search yielded an interesting turn of events, a dilemma that I hadn't planned on: I got accepted to NYU. Yeah, the NYU in New York. Super crazy! So why am I not in New York City right now? Because they're decision came so late that there was no time to gather the proper financials to get to NYU. So that was out of the picture.

About the same time that I was putting NYU aside, the head director at the high school told us that he would be leaving at the end of the school year. The person they ended up hiring for that position was someone that my mother felt that couldn't work with, given that he was driven to make a lot of changes to the program that my mother and the current director had worked years to build up. So she left...and I took her job. Without an education degree. Now how did that happen? Well you remember that accompanist job I secured? Well when it's just you and the director in a room with 97 junior high boys, you learn really fast that you're not just playing the piano, you're also teaching. And I knew I loved teaching, but what that job did was absolutely solidify it. So I spoke with the administration at the high school (where my mother worked) about what I would need to do in order to get that job. I swear to you, I have never jumped through so many hoops in such a short amount of time in my life. In two weeks, I went from a fresh-out-of-college kid with three part-time jobs to someone who was enrolled in a graduate program (that yields a teaching certification!) and a high school assistant choir director with a temporary certification from the state of Missouri...and also two part-time jobs in addition.

Long story short, I then taught high school for the next two years, ending my time at the high school in May of 2020. Which yes, means I was a teacher when the pandemic shut everything down. It was just as awful as you think it is. But I had to leave at that point because, due to extreme complications, I was unable to complete the graduate program in 2 years, which was the stipulation for holding the temporary certification in the first place. Knowing that I would be in that position, I began reaching out to Murray State, and enrolled for the 20-21 school year to finish my teaching certificate and get back into the classroom. Our current estimate is that I should graduate (again) in the Spring of '23, and then it's off to high school!

So here we are! It's been a wild journey to get back here, but it's been immensely rewarding and fun as well. I'm quite happy to be here with you all and to have a choir to work with and to make music with. I know that the choir has been missed, but let me assure you that they mean a great deal to me as well. They've given me a great gift of having a group of wonderful singers to teach, and for someone who is sorely missing that part of their life right now, I couldn't be more thankful. Every Wednesday night rehearsal is just an absolute treat, and I'm so proud of them and their work and their commitment to the music of this church. I've received many notes of gratitude from some of you for taking up the position and getting the choir going, but truly I owe you the thanks for allowing me to be the one doing the work. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

- Clay Barnard



P.S. Come join the choir! We love having new faces join the group, and there's never a bad time to start. "But I can't sing!" Yes you can! There's no better place to work on your voice than with the choir. We're learning new things every week, so come join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room!

## A Picture-Perfect Moment

*Submitted by Ann Wells*



Three stylish members decked out in red, white and blue pose outside the sanctuary on Sunday, July 4, 2021. Pictured from left to right: Joan Adams, Marcie Johnson, Patsy Chaney.

## Treasurer's Report

*Submitted by George Kipphut*

Our Church Finances continue to benefit from the consistent and generous support of FPC's members and friends.

For the period January 1 - July 30 2021, General Fund Income was approximately \$91,380 and General Fund Expenses were approximately \$70, 971. The surplus is expected to shrink as FPC continues to resume more activities.

Statements of 2021 Giving will be mailed to members and friends in August. If you have questions about your statement, please contact the church office..

If you need assistance using the Online Giving Portal, or need information or confirmation of your past donations, please contact the church office.

## Cafe Justo: Fresh Coffee Will Arrive Soon!

*Submitted by Cindy Barnett*

A new shipment of freshly roasted Café Justo coffee is on its way and will soon be available in the narthex. One pound bags of Arabica coffee in either medium or dark roast of whole-bean, ground, and decaf can be purchased for \$12 each. (Make checks payable to Presbyterian Women.) This is high quality coffee at a sustainable price for the grower (see below) and for the consumer. It's organic, hand-picked, and shade grown in the fertile soil on the slopes of the Volcano Tacaná that straddles the Mexican-Guatemalan border. It makes a great gift for coffee lovers! Enjoy your coffee while helping support the livelihoods of Mexican coffee farmers and their families.

**A right relationship with the folk who grow our coffee: Café Justo offers “fair trade plus” model.**

Café Justo (Just Coffee) is the name of the grower-owned coffee cooperative based primarily in Chiapas, the southernmost state of Mexico. Established in 2003 by Frontera de Cristo (Christ's Border), the Presbyterian border ministry jointly based in Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora (Mexico), it addresses the root causes of poverty and migration.

Café Justo promotes a new model of fair trade—fair trade plus—that goes above and beyond the traditional benefits of the system. Instead of paying a fair price to the farmers only for their coffee beans, Café Justo, using the fair trade plus model, also keeps the processing, roasting, packaging, shipping, marketing and management of the coffee in Mexico. This system allows farmers to participate in and profit from the entire process, increasing profits and providing more local jobs.



The fair trade plus model raises the price paid to the cooperative by nearly four times the value of the green product paid by fair trade intermediaries such as Equal Exchange, and ten times that paid to the vast majority of small producers in the conventional market. This value is shared within the coffee cooperative and its community, and has had a demonstrably positive effect on the quality of life, as well as the dignity and justice prevalent in the families involved.

Frontera de Cristo has been instrumental in helping churches understand the connection between their coffee consumption, the immigration crisis, and their faith and has promoted Café Justo as a faithful way to respond to the crisis and to enter into a right relationship with the folk who grow their coffee. More information is available at [www.justcoffee.org](http://www.justcoffee.org).



## **CASA: Make a Difference - One Child at a Time!**

*Submitted by Roger Weis*

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) has always been a favorite nonprofit of mine and my students at the university. CASA volunteers go through a training session and are then assigned to a child who is going through some judicial proceedings. For example, a child who has been neglected and then assigned to a foster family. The CASA volunteer keeps in touch with the child, the family, and the foster family to make sure things are going well and appearances in court are required.

CASA volunteers are officially appointed by the Calloway County Court system and are sworn in as legitimate representatives of the child. As a volunteer for CASA for the last year, I can tell you that it is not an easy assignment but to bond with a child who has been abused or neglected then to help develop a plan for that child to proceed successfully is SO worth it.

If you are interested, please contact CASA Volunteer Coordinator Julia Keleher, (270) 761-0164 or [jkeleher.casa@gmail.com](mailto:jkeleher.casa@gmail.com). If you have any questions, you may also contact me at (270) 227-3700 or [rogerweis1946@gmail.com](mailto:rogerweis1946@gmail.com).

## August Birthdays

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



## August Anniversaries

Dawn & Don Gaskin, Aug 1  
 Marion & Pete O'Rourke, Aug 6  
 Bonnie & Sam McNeely, Aug 17

## Prayer Concerns

### Church Members and Regular Attendees

Family of Joseph Belcher

Dawn Gaskin

Family of Sal Matarazzo

Melinda Wall and Family

Todd Goselin and Family

Aaron Polivick

Sue Cochran

Ralph and Cheryl Pittman

JoAnn Martin

Laynie Mitchell and Family

Barbara Conley

Melinda Wall and Family

Marion and Pete O'Rourke

Reba Vogel

Marilyn Miller

Passing of her nephew, Chad Knight

Passing of her mother-in-law, Betsy Wall

Passing of his mother, Nancy Goselin

Recovery and therapy, home

Recovery and therapy, home

Passing of Ralph's brother, Bruce Pittman

Uterine Cancer, recover from hysterectomy

Passing of Laynie's brother, Mickey Alba

Strength and recovery, Hickory Woods

Passing of her husband, Russ Wall

Passing of their son, Peter Francis O'Rourke III

Passing of her husband, Bob Vogel

Passing of her husband, Cary Miller

Terry Foreman	Recovery at home
Eva Hopkins	Home, cracked spine
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

David Harrison & Family	George Cochran's nephew, David, hospitalized with Covid, 3 others currently recovering at home
Cassie & Baby Jorie	Debbie Hixon's niece and great-niece, recovery
Brandon Bethune	Whitey Adams' good friend, undergoing series of back surgeries
Sheila	George Cochran's sister, COPD
John Cooper	Kaycee and Zach Byrd's grandfather, continued strength and recovery, improved appetite
Marilyn	Dewayne Polivick's mother, breast cancer
June Burgess	Debbie Burgess' mother
Pat Pittman	Ralph Pittman's son