

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

Clerk of Session: Ken Wolf

Treasurer: George Kipphut

Campus Ministry Director: Vacancy

MOTA Intern: Asia Blanton

Youth Ministry Director: Vacancy

Music Director: Clay Barnard

Accompanist: Julie Park

W&W Storyteller: Hannah McKibben

Nursery Attendant: G'Torria Swinton

Custodian: Monte Fisher

Office Hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thoughts From Your Pastor

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Beth Dobyms

You know how it goes...once you make plans and work out all the details, everything changes! That is the way things are in the world right now thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic continuation. I am so glad that we are able to continue with in-person worship services, making use of masks, hand sanitizer, distancing, and concern for one another. We will continue as long as possible to invite everyone to our building for worship on Sundays.

But for now, the word PIVOT is getting a good workout! We had planned to have two all-church gatherings for the purpose of hearing from everyone some ideas and hopes for the future. This information will be helpful for the search committee as the work of calling a new pastor begins. So, we will PIVOT from that plan because the risk of meeting in close quarters along with eating and drinking has become much greater in the community. Since we also have young children in our midst who cannot be vaccinated yet, we will not meet for lunch on those two Sundays. Instead, we will PIVOT to incorporate the interesting task of discovering ideas from the congregation into our regular worship times on September 12 and September 19.

I will be re-designing our worship time for those two Sundays, but rest assured we will be together for communion on September 12. Come prepared for some joy, some discovery of hope, and some good news for your future at First Presbyterian Church!

See you in church!

Beth

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday
Morning at 7 a.m.

Sept 1

Rudy's

Sept 8

Cracker Barrel

Sept 15

Crossroads

Sept 22

Hih Burger

Sept 29

Martha's

An Elder's Reflection

Submitted by Eric Frederick, FPC Session Elder

As we approach the fall, and hopefully cooler temperatures, things are beginning to heat up in the life of First Presbyterian Church, Murray! Rally Day saw an attendance of over fifty people at worship, the highest since we returned to in-person worship; and we hope the several visitors that were in attendance experienced our welcoming and inclusive nature helping to make them comfortable enough to return regularly and join us in the activities we offer at First Presbyterian.

As the son of a Presbyterian minister, I have been a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and have had the opportunity to be a member of many Presbyterian congregations as Dad served many different congregations. In fact, the first congregation that I was a member of that my father was not the pastor were the churches I attended while away as college. Over the years, I have seen the good, the bad and the ugly in church congregations. No congregation is without its troubles. What separates congregations, however, is how they handle these troubles. This month will mark exactly 28 years of membership for me at First Presbyterian, Murray. In fact, the first Sunday I visited was the Sunday David and Ann Marie Montgomery were installed and ordained at First Presbyterian. Few members from that time remain; some having passed on to the church Eternal, some moving due to work or job responsibilities, and other because for one reason or another they weren't happy any longer. I can honestly say, while this congregation has also had the good, the bad and the ugly, the proportion of good has always been high here. There is good happening at First Presbyterian, Murray, we just need to expand and grow on this good.

Your session is hard at work preparing to move forward with the process of helping the people of First Presbyterian Church determine what they would like to be as a church family. A Mission Study workgroup has been formed consisting of session members who will be responsible for researching, compiling data, and writing the mission study to present to the congregation. This document is a huge step that needs to be taken in order to call our next pastor to First Presbyterian Church. That said, we will need YOUR help in order to make this work. The participation of everyone affiliated with First Presbyterian, members, regular attendees, and visitors alike, is crucial to getting this accomplished. We

are fortunate to have an interim pastor who has helped congregations through this process in the past. We will be hosting two church gatherings, led by Dr. Dobyms, that will be very important for as many people, active members as well as those who may not have come to church in a while, to attend as possible. These are currently scheduled for September 12 and September 19 immediately following our worship service. This will be your time to share your hopes, dreams, visions, need and wants for First Presbyterian, Murray. Additionally, the mission study team will be using a written survey which will provide data needed to complete the Ministry Information Form, the document from which prospective pastors will use to learn about First Presbyterian, Murray. We would love to have as much participation as possible with this survey which we intend to have in electronic and paper/pencil formats.

Over the last 18 months, with the “help” of the pandemic, we lost a lot of momentum in the life of this congregation. We are at a critical juncture in the life of this church and we need you to help navigate these rough seas. The work will not be easy, not everyone will agree (nor should they), people will get frustrated and discouraged, but these are the experiences that will help us grow as a living body to do the work that we are called to do on the corner of 16th and Main. Please prayerfully consider where you can be of service and help in this process.



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

Presbyterian Women

Submitted by Kathie Fleming

Presbyterian Women met on August 30, 2021 for the first time in eighteen months. The primary discussion held involved Holly Berry. A variety of alternative ways to hold Holly Berry were discussed. It was determined that the safest way to continue this tradition during the continuing Covid pandemic was to

remain present for our community but on a much smaller basis. Therefore, at this time, we have chosen to hold the event on Saturday, November 13, 2021, which is our normal time, but only have bakery items that will be available on a pre-order basis and picked up by the customers under the drive-up covered area on November 13. When Cheryl Pittman, Marcie Johnson, and Kathie Fleming reached out to the women by phone calls in July and August, we had hoped to hold a full-fledged Holly Berry Bazaar and Bake Sale. The response from the women of the church was positive and we felt we would be able to do it until the new variant hit hard and our entire state was placed in the red status. Under those conditions, it was felt that an indoor event in our church would not be wise or responsible.

Therefore, our current plan is to take orders for the following items: Yeast Rolls, Sweet Breads, Cinnamon Rolls, Rum Cakes and 4-5 kinds of cookies, sold by the dozen. We will have some of those items extra for drive ups that did not pre-order. Additionally, we may sell to-go cups of coffee, cider and hot chocolate for people to purchase when they come to pick up the items they ordered. We are working on ways to effectively get the word out. The help of all bakers in the church will be needed in order to be successful in this effort. Dates for the roll workshops will be posted in the October Newsletter. We are hopeful that this will enable us to raise a good portion

of the funds required to purchase items for our backpack sacks for the month of December for the city and county schools.

We will meet again Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. at church.



Outreach Report

Submitted by Shirley Latto

FPC Outreach Service Activities for September 2021:

- FPC Donates \$500 to Main Street Youth Center
- FPC Donates 1,100 to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky
- FPC Donates \$84 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Clerk's Report: August Session Meeting

Submitted by Dr. Ken Wolf, Clerk of Session

Here are the major discussions and actions from the August 9, 2021 Session meeting:

- Despite the surge in COVID cases, Session members decided to continue in-person meetings, worship services, and other activities in the church building for as long as possible, with masks required indoors.
- In her Pastor's Report, Beth Dobyns thanked everyone for the warm welcome she received and invited all congregants to attend the two all-church discussions, scheduled for August 29 and September 19 during the worship service. The purpose of these meetings will be to collect information for our mission study about "what you like, want, and hope for this church to be about in the future."
- There will also be a congregational meeting on September 19 following worship to elect congregational members of the Nominating Committee for the coming calendar year.
- Ken Wolf announced that Lisa Polivick has resigned as Campus Ministry Director to take up a new position with the Department of Education centered in Frankfort that requires statewide travel. The Presbyterian Campus Ministry Board (PCMB) chaired by David Pizzo, will review our ministry during coming months prior to hiring a new director from among our church members.
- At the suggestion of Moderator Ken Dick, the Session established a three-member ad hoc committee of volunteers (Eric Frederick, Morgan Randall, and Ken Wolf) to make plans for how our Mission Study will be conducted during the remainder of this calendar year. They will include a non-Session member of the congregation in this effort.



Save the Date!
Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Held On:
Thursday, September 16, 2021
From 12:30-5:30 p.m. at FPC

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by George

For the period January 1 - August 31 2021, General Fund Income was \$104,903 and General Fund Expenses were \$86,694. The Financial Campaign for 2022 will begin in late September. Information about this Annual Campaign will appear in the next Newsletter.



Soup's ON!

Submitted by Marcie Johnson

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



At Frontera de Cristo, We Choose Welcome

Submitted by Cindy Barnett

(This article originally appeared in the Spring/Summer 2021 newsletter of Frontera de Cristo {Christ's Border} Presbyterian Bi-National Border Ministry. Frontera de Cristo, located in the sister cities of Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, is one of the busiest border crossings for migrants coming to the U.S. Our Café Justo is roasted in Agua Prieta.)

Since December of 2020, Frontera de Cristo and our partners have seen a substantial increase in persons being returned to Agua Prieta by the Border Patrol. We have provided welcome, orientation, Café Justo, food, and medical care if needed to an average of 1,000 men and women a month. In March 2021, we began organizing the Douglas community to provide a welcoming center with rapid COVID tests, food, Café Justo, water, transportation, and housing in response to the request of the US Border Patrol to support the 80 to 100 persons a day whom they anticipate releasing into our community.

We have been overwhelmed by the response of our community who has chosen to respond with welcome and not fear. One member shared: "If we all share a little, we will have more than enough." In a meeting we requested, the Mayor of Douglas said "While this is a federal responsibility, it is an opportunity for our community to serve and service brings us closer to God."

We invite you to participate in our We Choose Welcome campaign to work with the Douglas and Agua Prieta Community to receive our sisters and brothers with love and care. While we will never know each person's reasons for seeking freedom in the United States, we know these individuals are here now and we choose to welcome them.

To make a secure online donation to Frontera de Cristo's "We Choose Welcome" campaign, visit us at fronteradecristo.org and click on the "We Choose Welcome" box. Or mail your contribution to Frontera de Cristo, P.O Box 1112, Douglas AZ 85608.



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.

September Birthdays

Lucy Mitchell, Sept 1
Dawn Gaskin, Sept 8
Barbara Conley, Sept 10
Sid Martin, Sept 10
Kathie Fleming, Sept 13
Cindy Barnett, Sept 26
Carol Jean Lewis, Sept 27



September Anniversaries

Ann & Bill Wells, Sept 3
Cheryl & Ralph Pittman, Sept 6
Tana Field & Todd Goselin, Sept 18
Kathie & Don Fleming, Sept 29



Prayer Concerns

Church Members and Regular Attendees

Dennis Mills	Passing of his brother, Jackie
Sid Martin	Recovery
Aaron Polivick	Recovery and therapy, home
Sue Cochran	Recovery and therapy, home
JoAnn Martin	Uterine Cancer, recover from hysterectomy
Terry Foreman	Recovery at home
Eva Hopkins	Home, cracked spine
Mary Lynn Christensen	Alzheimer's, Spring Creek #129

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Essential Workers and Families affected by Covid-19

Tabitha	Cheryl Pittman's grand-daughter, as well as Tabitha's 3 children, recovery from Covid-19
Bob Biele	Todd Wright's brother-in-law; cancer and hospice care
Family of Madison Berry	
David Harrison & Family	George Cochran's nephew, Covid-19
Sheila	George Cochran's sister, COPD
John Cooper	Kaycee and Zach Byrd's grandfather, recovery
Marilyn	Dewayne Polivick's mother, breast cancer
June Burgess	Debbie Burgess' mother
Pat Pittman	Ralph Pittman's son