

FPC CONNECTIONS

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



Peace is active, not passive.

Peace is doing, not waiting.

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:

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

I have kept a book list for over twenty years now...you know, books I've heard about, books I really want to read, and those that I can't imagine where the title will lead.

I am not keeping score on this, by the way. At the end of the year, I look over the list and if there are some left, I decide whether I really, really want to read them or not. Enchantment sometimes gives way to reality!

Honestly, isn't that the way life works? We make lots of plans and designs. We look to the future and we hope for good things, delight in a story line, or a good scare from a mystery. But reality comes our way, and we have to decide how to move forward. If we just can't read all those books, put the list somewhere safe, and take the top few to read in the near future. Let the rest go for now.

I think that sounds like the church. We have many good things that we love to do. We look forward to all kinds of things in the community and in the life of the church. Rather than keeping the proverbial list in front of us, feeling guilty that we haven't done everything or read all the books or sung all the songs, let us be willing to find a point of reality for ourselves.

We have all carried heavy burdens of fear and dread due to the nasty SARS-CoV-2 virus that has run through the world. Many of us have been ill, and we may have lost family and friends throughout the year. That stuff gets added to the list of things we wanted to get done. So maybe things won't happen this year like they usually do.

Let's make new lists! Forget that end of the year making of resolutions—let's do it now! Maybe we can help one another let go of a few burdens that we can't/

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday
Morning at 7 a.m.

October 6

Rudy's

October 13

Cracker Barrel

October 20

Crossroads

October 27

Hih Burger

Rev. Dr. Jenna Goggins
will be our Guest
Preacher on Sunday,
October 17, 2021

won't get done. What do you see that you would like to do in the next few months? I encourage us all to realize we can let go of things we thought we had to do. It is realistic to seek a re-sized time of enjoyment. Jesus always encouraged people to keep what was pure and true and wonderful close at hand. Here's to a decent Fall season, full of hope and joy...and maybe a book or two!

See you in church!

Beth

An Elder's Reflection

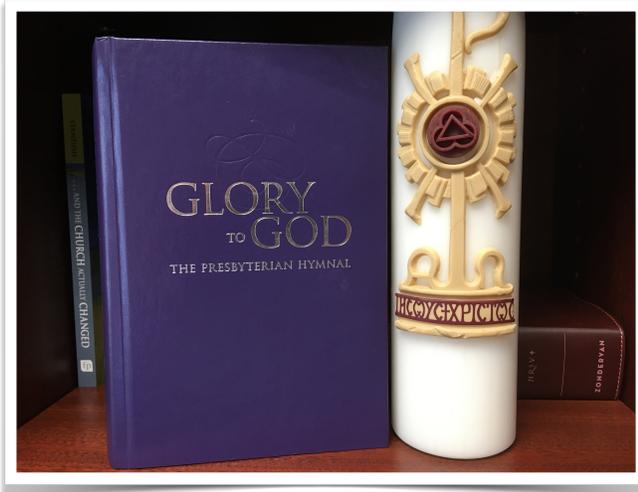
Submitted by Debbie Hixon, FPC Session Elder Class of 21

Greetings, everyone! I am happy to be writing this month's Session column. As my time on the Session is about to come to a close, I have been reflecting on how much our church has changed in the last 3 years. I was asked to serve on the Session by my good friend Patsy Chaney, and she assured me I could do this! Several times during the first year, I must admit, I didn't think I had the necessary skills to advise and decide what was most important for our wonderful church. Little did know, we had a global pandemic in our world's future. Never before in our lifetime had we been affected by something that impacted the entire world. Wars, economic conditions, and other diseases did not have the power that COVID-19 had over every person on Earth.

Every meeting, every decision, every issue was painfully discussed, implemented, and evaluated, then many times--changed--in a matter of a few weeks. As our lives progressed in the "new normal", we all learned to adapt and carry on. And so did our church! Many of us learned a whole new vocabulary of medical terms and electronic-related words. Zoom meetings were a special challenge for me. In order to keep our parishioners safe, we had "parking lot" church, live feed church, Facebook church, and sadly, no church services. While change is sometimes a good thing, it can be stressful and difficult, but I am happy to say I think FPC emerged as a "lean, mean, fighting machine!". We lost our pastor, but were so fortunate to have found Dr. Dobyms to fill in while we evaluate our future needs. With her immense experience of pastoring transitioning churches, she is able to help us navigate the unexpected bumps in the road. Your Session is working hard to find the perfect person for us, but we need your help. A survey, which has been distributed, will be a huge help in finding that perfect person for us. Please take the

time to complete the survey and help make your needs known. We ask that all surveys be returned by Sunday, October 3, 2021.

Now you know since I am on the Stewardship committee, I'm going to talk about the budget, finance and money! We will be sending you the budget for 2022 and a request for pledges soon. While COVID has made changes necessary in our church, the bills keep coming. We are so proud of the financial support FPC has received during this time. As we move through this difficult time, I ask you to strive to keep our church the caring, loving, and giving church it has always been. God bless.



Glory to God Hymnal Drive

Submitted by Clay Barnard

Hello FPC!

It's been great having the choir back in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, and from what I've heard you all agree! Your kind words and praise over the past couple of months for the work that the choir has been doing has been so encouraging and motivating to myself and to the choir, and we are immensely grateful for your support and kindness.

I've also been quite humbled to see this same encouragement and support for our fundraising drive to purchase new hymnals for our worship services. As I mentioned when we announced the drive, our current hymnal (the blue ones) haven't aged very well with us; they are missing a lot of the hymns that we love to sing during service, and because of this Andrea ends up using a significant amount of paper and ink to make the bulletin inserts that we've grown accustomed to. 99% of those inserts come from the newer version of the Presbyterian hymnal, which was published in 2013. Our main motivation in purchasing these hymnals is to expand our hymnal repertoire for our service on Sundays without draining the resources (and money!) of the office.

As of this writing at the end of September, I'm thrilled to announce that we have received enough donations thus far to purchase 111 new hymnals! That is an absolutely incredible number, over two-thirds our goal of 150 hymnals, and it wouldn't be possible without the generous spirit of this congregation. For that, I will be forever grateful. Your contributions are helping us upgrade faster than we imagined possible.

With these donations, alongside the promised funding from various budgets within our church (including the Margaret Boone Memorial Fund), our work is nearly done! Any and all money that is donated to the fundraiser will go towards purchasing a hymnal, and the more the merrier! Looking to the future, your contributions are helping us prepare for the future growth of our congregation and their ability to participate unhindered in worship.

Sincerely, thank you for your gifts, your kind words, and your love!

Holly Berry Roll Workshops

Submitted by Kathie Fleming and Cheryl Pittman

The dates for our Holly Berry Roll Workshops have been set. This is a time to gather and make our famous yeast rolls for Holly Berry and we welcome all members of our church family to participate in this beloved First Presbyterian Church tradition. We begin at 8:00 a.m. and finish at about 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining this fun activity, which involves getting your hand in the “dough”, please watch for sign up sheets to appear on the sign up table. Rest assured, no experience is necessary!



Our roll workshops will be held on:

Monday, October 25 at 8:00 a.m. (until about 12:00 or 1:00 p.m.)

Thursday, October 28 at 8:00 a.m. (until about 12:00 or 1:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, November 3 at 8:00 a.m. (until about 12:00 or 1:00 p.m.)

Presbyterian Women will meet on Thursday, September 30 to discuss plans for Holly Berry. While Holly Berry might look a little different this year, we know this event is as important as ever: funds raised through Holly Berry directly support our church's contribution to the community backpack program. This community-wide initiative provides weekend snack food for children who live in homes that face food insecurity. The snacks are given to children each Friday. Our church helps with this program during the month of December. Please continue to stay tuned for information about how you will be able to help us this year.



We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.



Outreach Report

Submitted by Shirley Latto

FPC Outreach Service Activities for October 2021:

- FPC Holds PC(USA) Special Peace & Global Witness Offering on October 3, 2021
- FPC Donates \$200 to the Presbyterian Foundation's Theological Education Fund
- FPC Donates \$83 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Beth Belote Circle

Submitted by Marcie Johnson

The Beth Belote Circle met for the first time in a year and a half (!) on Thursday, September 2. The meeting opened with a prayer handed down by decades of women's groups at First Presbyterian (and recovered by Marion O'Rourke in her study several years ago of scrapbooks and other records of those groups.) As has been the custom, Debbie Burgess hosted us--this time on her deck for additional safety--with wine and a generous array of hors d'oeuvres.

Members decided to adopt James H. Cones's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* for this year's study focus. Recommended by former FPC-member Alida Graves, whose Maryville, TN, congregation has undertaken an earnest examination of racism and racial bias, Cones's book explores the challenges within the United States, especially for African-Americans, in a society that expresses white supremacy while professing Christianity.

The Beth Belote Circle will meet next from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 14, again outside at Debbie's home, 1710 Audubon. Any woman who would like to join the circle or visit for one evening is welcome to attend.



"And all at once, summer collapsed into fall." --Oscar Wilde

Clerk's Report: September Session Meeting

Submitted by Dr. Ken Wolf, Clerk of Session

Here are the major discussions and actions from the September 13, 2021 Session meeting:

- Session approved a Mission Study Congregational Survey to be completed by as many congregants as possible during the next few weeks. It can be completed electronically (by phone, device, or computer) or on paper and is due on October 3, 2021;
- Session approved a timeline to guide our progress of conducting a Mission Study, selecting a Pastor Nominating Committee, and posting our position on the national Church Leadership Connection by December 15, 2021;
- Session approved sending Pastor Beth's "Holy Conversations" summary from the September 12, 2021 worship service to members of the congregation.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by George

For the period January 1 - September 28 2021, FPC General Fund Income was \$122,840 and General Fund Expenses were \$101,229. Thank you to all members and friends who made contributions over the summer: FPC is close to on-target for meeting its financial goals for 2021. The Financial Campaign for 2022 will begin in mid-October. Members and friends will receive a letter from the Stewardship and Finance Committee at that time outlining the proposed FPC budget plan for 2022.

Soup for the Soul



Submitted by Marcie Johnson

Pastor Beth's September 19 sermon urged us to "Get in Line"--to follow Christ's teaching to serve others. One of our most direct ways to do that to volunteer at Murray's Soup for the Soul, preparing meals for those in our community who struggle to feed themselves and their families well.

In August, our line-up of Cindy Barnett, Shirley Latto, Roger Weis, Annie Wells, Todd Wright carved six roasted turkeys (!) and packed those slices with noodles, gravy, peas and corn into "to-go" boxes for 87 hungry customers. As Annie noted, every dinner also included the "key ingredient of Love."

Our FPC crews volunteer at Soup for the Soul every other month, so our next workday will be Tuesday, October 5. Lining up to serve that afternoon are Carol Allen, George Kipphut, Shirley, Roger, and Todd. Many thanks to each of them for representing us in one of the best ways possible. And if you are ready to line up for the next Soup workday, December 7, please contact Marcie Johnson: mjohnson2@murraystate.edu or marcie42071@gmail.com or (270) 853-0128. As Roger says, "helping someone just a little bit is a lot of fun"!



Christmas Cantata

Submitted by Clay Barnard

Season's Greetings FPC!

Can you believe that I'm already talking about Christmas? October has barely started! Alas, it's time to talk about Christmas, and more specifically, the Christmas Cantata.

I think we can all agree that this year (and last year) were quite unusual and unpredictable. Unfortunately, we're still cautious of that unpredictability and how that may affect our

plans for the holiday season. It has certainly made planning ahead a little more difficult! So this year for our Christmas Cantata, instead of purchasing a flashy choral extravaganza from one of the music publishers, I'm opting for a simpler Cantata, purely choral Christmas music. The main reason for this change is that, given how unstable future planning can be right now, doing something simpler like this allows us the ability to record it should the need arise. It's much more difficult to record a "production" (for lack of a better word), as opposed to a collection of music that can be recorded in any order we need to do it in. What this means for us is that, rain or shine (or covid), there will be a Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 5th!

This has also opened up another absolutely fascinating possibility for us. As you know, we have wonderful student interns who sing with our choir, and we're very thankful for their support and service. But there are many more talented students on campus too (just picking the interns is hard enough!). One group of such students are the ones that take lessons in music composition. They study the craft of putting together new pieces, form, new tonalities and possibilities, an infinitely fascinating track of study...though I must admit that I'm biased, as my first college degree was in that very track! Anyway, I bring this up because, as Pastor Beth has mentioned before, we should begin to seek new ways to be connected with our campus neighbors. Therefore, I have asked the student composers on campus to write new arrangements of classic Christmas carols and hymns for our Christmas Cantata. (I'm also writing music for the Cantata! Come see what I've got planned for us!)

So now what? We need YOU! 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 the following times:



Choir Rehearsal: 6:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Cantata Rehearsal: 7:15 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

We look forward to seeing new faces join us for the preparation of this truly unique Cantata! If you have any questions at all, feel free to reach out to me. I'm always happy to help!

GIVE BLOOD

You can make a difference.



American Red Cross

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



I've been meaning to write this for quite a while, but, so far, it hasn't gotten done. I've mentioned this to others, one on one, but I should be shouting it from the pulpit!

First Presbyterian Church has got to have the best Congregational Care committee in the history of the world.

Whenever a tragedy happens, whenever there is illness, when my new puppy has to have major surgery, whenever I am just blue from isolating myself from Covid, a card comes in the mail from Marcie Johnson, Marion O'Rourke, or Ann Wells. These three have such a talent for saying exactly the right things at the right time. I appreciate them so much, yet I've never taken the time to let them know how much their kind, caring words means to me.

There may be others that are also part of the Congregational Care Committee, but they are the three I've heard from. I know they have problems of their own, sadness in their lives, and concerns for their family, yet they take the time to help all of us feel better. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart! --Dawn Gaskin

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
- Kaycee Byrd, Oct 24



October Anniversaries

- Kaycee and Zach Byrd, Oct 12**
- Clay Barnard and Aidan Landis, Oct 29**

Prayer Concerns

Church Members and Regular Attendees

Dennis Mills	Passing of his brother, Jackie
Sid Martin	Strength and recovery
Aaron Polivick	Recovery and therapy, home
Sue Cochran	Recovery and therapy, home
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

Marshall Hammond and his	Ann Wells' second cousin, 12, recent passing of his mother, Heidi, father, Sean, from Covid-19
Bob Biele	Todd Wright's brother-in-law; cancer and hospice care
Kellie Moore	Rev. Ken Bailey's daughter, aggressive form of lymphoma
Candice Clifton	Lisa Polivick's niece, aggressive form of Stage 3 breast cancer
Family of Rev. Dr. Lynn E. Shurley	
Tabitha	Cheryl Pittman's grand-daughter, as well as Tabitha's 3 children, recovery from 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