

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: Vacancy

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.

Waiting for What Was... and Will Be

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Beth Dobyms

Over the last couple of years, we have all been in some strange situations. We have been forced into waiting, into quarantine, alone time, into way too much time to think about things. We have tried to follow the rules, but those changed all the time. We have continued to hear, “Well, I can’t wait ’til we get back to normal.” And in some ways we are just like Ruth and Naomi, faced with a wild time of transition in their lives. Normal is no longer around here, but it has transformed into the next episode of normal. “All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well,” said Julian of Norwich, saint of the church in the 1300s.

In all things, in all ways, God remains with us. Even though we have lost many family members and friends, God remains with us and with them. But we don’t want it that way; we want things to be...you know, normal! God remains and God sees us all through, in spite of what we might think. As we enter a season which carries us to a time of reflection upon gratitude, we might focus upon the love and care of our gracious God. It’s not that we should not grieve or be sad over so much loss and suffering; rather, it is that we might realize that God, in Jesus Christ, carries us through, even to the other side of what life delivers to us.

As we consider where we are, at the other end of this time of battling an unseen viral enemy, let us give thanks for the love of God, for the untold acts of mercy and love shown to us every day. May we remember how Jesus taught us to pray, and to act toward one another. In this time of thanksgiving, let us share with one another the ways that gratitude, mercy, love, and

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday
Morning at 7 a.m.

Nov 3, Martha's

Nov 10, Rudy's

Nov 17, Cracker
Barrel

Nov 24, Crossroads

Pop in and say hello!

Mr. Ed Cyzewski will be
our Guest Preacher
on November 14, 2021

abiding care have built bridges among us, so that no one is left alone with community. God loves us all. God is in the design of what will be. The future is on the way, friends! Bless you and thank you for all that you say and do in God's name and for God's sake!

See you in church!

Beth

What's in a Name? A Lot, Actually

Submitted by Todd Wright, FPC Session Elder Class of 23

Something I'd read about famed children's program host & Presbyterian minister Fred "Mr. Rogers" came recently to mind: They said when you were talking to Fred, you felt as though you were the only person in the world that mattered to him.

Most of you know about the recent passing of Bob Biele, my sister Cassie's husband. During this time, many of you lived those words of Rev. Rogers by asking after myself & my sister Cassie throughout that most difficult of times.

I'd like to share a moment from that episode of Cass's & my life, a scene that has been echoed in so many stories I've read from hospice workers & family members.

First though, a quick history. Many of you recall that our own father, Floyd, passed away in late June of 1984, when I was sixteen years old. Cassie was seventeen, and going in to her senior year of high school.

Four years later, Cassie would meet Bob in the Navy, and they would marry a year later.

Thus, Bob had never met Dad.

Flash forward to several weeks ago, to the morning Bob passed.

He passed at around three in the morning; Cassie, a light sleeper at this point in her life woke up to the relative quiet - the rattle in his chest had ceased.

She texted me the news around 3:30 a.m., naturally I was asleep.

Later that morning, unaware of what had happened, I arose from bed and commenced my daily morning routine. Part of that includes firing up my computer to check for emails, but equally important is turning on the radio to inject some life & ambiance into my home.

It was then that I dug out my still new cell phone (270-293-4174) to check for messages, and that was when I learned of Bob's passing.

At that very moment – many of you may remember my mother's admonition in how she doesn't believe in coincidences – I immediately noticed the song being played on the radio happened to be a huge, huge hit when Cassie was a senior in high school: "TAKE ME HOME", by Phil Collins.

I called Cassie; she didn't pick up right then, but I left her a message & held the phone to one of the speakers to share the moment.

That's not the "Wow!" part, though.

That took place a week earlier; Bob was lying in bed. Cassie was with him in the room, in a chair next to the bed. Bob, in his weakened state, stirred in his bed and reached towards the upper corner of the room opposite the end of their bed, and called out "Momma." This, Cassie informed me, was how he regularly addressed his mother, who had passed away about ten years ago. His dad had passed years sooner.

A few moments later, he said "Dad."

After that, he said "Oh! You're my father-in-law.."; then, in a self-conscious aside whisper to Cassie, he said, "I can't remember his name."

Cassie by this time was transfixed, and didn't say a word.

A pause; then he said, "Oh; your name is Floyd."



Holly Berry

Submitted by Kathie Fleming and Cheryl Pittman

Attention Bakers--

Orders have arrived steadily of our Holly Berry Bake Sale! Very soon we need to begin baking. Two roll workshops have already been held and two more are scheduled: Monday, November 1 and Wednesday, November 3.

Please contact us for specific information about the kinds of cookies and sweet breads needed to meet the pre orders. Buyers will pick up their orders on Saturday, November 13,

between 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We plan to make this a festive, welcoming occasion, offering complementary hot chocolate, Cafe Justo coffee, and of course, a candy cane.

We will package the orders on Friday, November 12 from 9:00 a.m. until they are all ready to go. Items you are baking must be brought to church by 11:00 a.m. that Friday morning.

Remember--there are jobs for all of us--just like at our normal Holly Berry. Please be in touch with Kathie or Cheryl soon to let us know how you can help.



Outreach Report

Submitted by Shirley Latto

FPC Outreach Service Activities for November 2021:

- FPC Donates \$500 to Need Line
- FPC Donates \$1,400 to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky
- FPC Donates \$83 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Beth Belote Circle

Submitted by Marcie Johnson

Welcomed by Debbie Burgess and her array of tasty appetizers (not to mention by her cute grandsons), members of the Beth Belote Circle met Thursday evening, October 14, outside on the deck.

Our discussion centered on the introduction to James H. Cones's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* and on our own recognition in adulthood that we were, as children, unaware of the difficulties experienced by African-Americans. Future meetings this year will address a chapter each month, with different discussion leaders for each topic.

Lisa Polivick will lead our November meeting, when we will explore Cones's historical overview of lynchings and Christian churches' responses in late 19th- and 20th-century America. Planned for 6:00-7:30 p.m. November 18, on Debbie's deck if weather allows, this meeting is open to any woman who is interested.



Soup for the Soul

Submitted by Marcie Johnson

What a Team!

Five Presbyterians gave their time and talents to preparing a warm meal for Soup for the Soul guests in October. Word is that George Kipphut and Todd Wright can produce a generous amount of tasty chicken casserole—especially with Roger Weis overseeing a giant vat of noodles! Thanks and applause to them and to Shirley Latto and Carol Allen, who created a sweet potato casserole without a recipe or a potato masher! Together, this crew packaged meals to satisfy 96 hungry people.

Our next Soup for the Soul workday is Tuesday, December 7, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. If you can serve on the crew that day or could be on call for future months, please let Marcie Johnson know (mjohnson2@murraystate.edu; 270-853-0128).

Pledge Sunday, November 7, 2021

Submitted by the Finance Committee

The Stewardship & Finance Committee has started its Pledge Campaign for our 2022 budget. If you have not already received your pledge kit in the mail, please contact the church office to make arrangements to get one: (270) 753-6460. The committee asks that all pledges be returned by Pledge Sunday: November 7, 2021.



Decorating for Advent

Submitted by the Worship Committee

On Tuesday, November 23, the Worship Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. to decorate our church for Advent. Extra volunteers will be appreciated, especially those who are able to help transport the Christmas tree and those who are comfortable climbing a tall ladder. More helping hands will keep the work light and fun. If your schedule allows, please stop in, enjoy a donut (or two) and help transform our church for Christmas!

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

Clerk's Report: October Session Meeting

Submitted by Dr. Ken Wolf, Clerk of Session

Here are the major discussions and actions from the October 11, 2021 Session meeting:

- Session received a report on the results of the congregational survey completed by 25 members and non-members; results will be included in the Mission Study and shared with the members of FPC once the Mission Study has been approved by Session.
- Session voted to close the church office between Christmas and New Year's Day in 2021.
- Session agreed to work hard to meet our timeline for a Congregational meeting to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) by the end of October or early in November.



Cranberry Sauce Drive

Submitted by the Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce the start of our annual Cranberry Sauce Drive for Need Line's Christmas Basket program. Our church has pledged to send 300 cans of jellied or whole berry cranberry sauce this year. Please consider picking up a few extra cans this month when you are grocery shopping, and bring them to the collection area in the Church lobby. The final day cans may be brought to Church is Sunday,

December 5. Thank you all for your support of this special program.



Alternative Christmas Gift Market: Coming Soon!

Submitted by Deanna Wolf

The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce the Eighteenth Annual Alternative Christmas Gift Market will be offered this December. This will be the perfect opportunity to purchase meaningful gifts for some of the toughest people on your list. We will soon feature an updated selection of charities from which you can choose to make a charitable contribution in their name. It's the gift that gives twice! We

will offer a variety of choices in this year's catalog, so you can pick the one that would be most meaningful to your giftee. Please stay tuned for future announcements.

Let our Alternative Christmas Gift Market make your holiday shopping a little easier this year!

November Birthdays

Bev Reuter, Nov 3

Jamie Helton, Nov 12

Terry Holmes, Nov 15

Ross Meloan, Nov 18

Chris Mitchell, Nov 25

Robin Holmes, Nov 28



November Anniversaries

Joan and Whitey Adams, Nov 7

Prayer Concerns

Church Members and Regular Attendees

George Cochran	Passing of his wife, Sue Cochran
Sandra Hilding	Leukemia, lung biopsy
Todd Wright	Passing of his brother-in-law, Bob
Clay Barnard	Passing of his great-grandfather, Charles Hardin
Sid Martin	Strength and recovery, home
Aaron Polivick	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

Baby Harrison	Renee and Jerry Meyer's grandson, testing of bloodwork
Julie McGrath	Deanna and Ken Wolf's cousin, rehab after accident, surgery
Marshall Hammond	Ann Wells' second cousin, 12, recent passing of his parents, Covid
Candice Clifton	Lisa Polivick's niece, aggressive form of Stage 3 breast cancer
Sheila	George Cochran's sister, COPD
John Cooper	Kaycee and Zach Byrd's grandfather, recovery
June Burgess	Debbie Burgess' mother
Pat Pittman	Ralph Pittman's son