

HAPPENINGS

First Presbyterian Church, 1601 Main Street, Murray, KY 42071



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Renee Meyer
270-227-7714

Administrative Assistant:

Dawn Boyd

Accompanist:

Christy D'Ambrosio

Choir Director:

Chris Mitchell

Clerk of Session:

Carol Allen

Treasurer:

Tim Belcher

Nursery:

Liz Wall

Youth Director:

Brittany Hesson

Custodian:

Monte Fisher

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Friday
9:00–12:00
1:00–3:00

Pastors Office Hours

Monday

9 a.m.-Noon

Personal Study

Noon-3:00 p.m.

visitation, office time

Tuesday

9 a.m.-Noon

Personal Study

Noon-3:00 pm visitation,

office time

Wednesday

office 9 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Thursday

office 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Friday

Day Off

From the Pastor:

As we begin a new year, we also begin a new year of service in the church. I have been very impressed with the work of a few of our committees—ones that I have had the pleasure of serving within already.

My leadership style is one where I take seriously the idea of “equipping the saints for ministry.” I am not one to think that my finger has to be in every pie. The way I see it is that you are a very capable group of people and therefore you do not necessarily need me to be at every meeting of every committee. I am certainly glad to attend when I am needed, and I will attend every committee at some time or another—just to show my support and interest in what you are doing.

I hope that you will prayerfully consider serving on a committee this year. Remember that God does not call us to serve in areas in which we are not gifted to serve. How do we discern what our gifts are? Well, it is pretty simple—what is it that you are interested in? Do you like doing things for others? Well maybe your gift could be best used in one of these committees: Congregational Care or Outreach/Mission. Do you appreciate the worship service and wonder how we came up with our Hanging of the Greens service? We will be planning some new services for Holy Week in the coming year—does that perk your interest? Well, perhaps the Worship Committee is calling your name. We will be establishing a new committee this year—or perhaps just bringing back a previous one: the Campus Ministry Committee. This coming year will be a time of great transition with Brittany Hesson going off to seminary. We need folks interested in a broadened campus ministry—one that considers how to appeal to faculty and staff in addition to the student population to help expand this ministry. Do you have the gift of cooking? Perhaps you would like to serve on the Fellowship Committee.

Do you have a passion for a ministry that you do not see taking place at First Presbyterian? Well—get it started! Our possibilities are endless. Remember that there should be joy, or at least gratification in serving. If you find neither of these occurring at least some of the time—then it is time to prayerfully consider service somewhere else within the church. You may decide that instead of serving on a committee—you would like to sing in the choir or help with MOTA meetings/fellowship/worship.

Now that we have covered the service part of our calling, we must take time to nurture our spirits. If you do not already do so, try to incorporate a short time of scripture reading and prayer each day. Maybe you would like to join the Bible study that I will be leading on Thursday mornings at 10:30 beginning January 15. We will be studying the gospel according to Luke. If there is interest, I would be glad to hold the same study also in the evening. I would like to start a new Presbyterian Women Circle in the evening for women who cannot attend either one of the other two because they are held during the day. The PW circles do Bible study during their time together. All of these things concentrate on nourishing our spirits. This is also a critical piece in order to grow in grace within Christ's church. Both service and study help to ensure that we are carrying out the will of Christ.

One last comment about our committee work: it is crucial that we work within the committee structures to get things done. If you do not currently sit on a committee that is charged with overseeing a certain event, worship service, or other project—then it is not your place to take on any of those responsibilities. If you are inclined to do so, then you need to join that overseeing committee. This will eliminate any miscommunication, unnecessary crossover, and double doing. And quite frankly, it is the respectful thing to do.

It is my prayer that this will be a year of revitalization within the church. If you have new ideas for ministry, please bring them forward. This is how the Holy Spirit works. And the Spirit depends on us to respond, as do the folks that will ultimately be helped in this potential new ministry.

So I look forward to serving with you in 2015!

Shalom,

Pastor Renee



Our Website is up and going!!

Check it out at

<http://fpcmurray.com/>

Head & Heart

Will meet January 15th at 7 p.m.

Presbyterian Women

PW Brown Bag Lunch: PW will NOT be meeting this month.

Dorothy McKenzie Circle will meet on January 12th @ 1 p.m. @ Shirley Latto's home.

Dorothy Moore Circle will meet on January 13th in the Session room at FPC @ 10:30 a.m.



A Light to the Nations
Epiphany Sunday
January 4, 2015

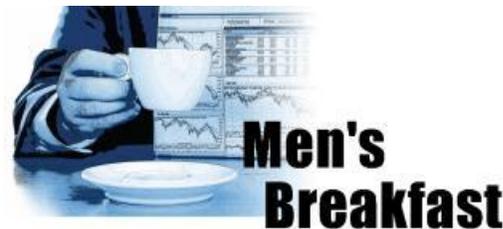
The Group

A planning meeting for The Group activities for 2015 will be held Friday, February 6th, at church at 12:00 noon. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. Bring your ideas for activities so we can set up a schedule for the year. If you are unable to attend but are interested in hosting an event, let Kathie Fleming know.



Join us each Thursday @ noon for The Lunch Bunch

January 8 th	The Station
January 15 th	August Moon
January 22 nd	Los Portales
January 29 th	Tom's Grille



Every Wednesday morning @ 7
a.m.

January 7th - Mary's
January 14th - Rudy's
January 21st - Cracker Barrel
January 28th - Hih Burger

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

The membership committee is currently looking for volunteers to serve on the committee for the 2015 year. If you are interested in serving on the committee and helping First Presbyterian church membership grow, please contact Eric Frederick at 270-293-1690 or efrederick@murraystate.edu.

Keep Breathing

Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, said many Christians live on a "spiritual roller coaster," going from one emotional experience to another in a worldly way, feeling "frustrated and fruitless."

To counteract that, Bright recommended a spiritual breathing exercise as a reminder of God's love and forgiveness. Simply exhale as you confess your sins and impurities. Then inhale to receive life and forgiveness — and to be filled with the Holy Spirit, who empowers you to resist sin and temptation.

Clerk's Corner Stated Session Meeting December 15, 2014

Session took the following action:

- accepted an anonymous gift for the purchase of a piano for the sanctuary
- called a congregational meeting for January 11, 2015 to elect the Elder Class of 2017, present the 2015 operating budget, and approve the change in terms of call for Pastor Renee
- scheduled the elder retreat for January 30 and 31, 2015
- scheduled the examination of the newly elected elders for January 12, 2015
- reviewed the most recent revision of the proposed operating budget for 2015 with possible changes to balance the budget





"KEEPING UP WITH YOUTH"

Youth group meets at the MOTA house Sunday afternoons from 4-5:30 p.m.

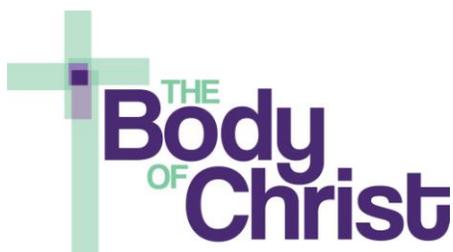
See Brittany for more info!

A Well-Balanced Church

The owner of a new puppy got a good laugh when the little dog, out for a walk, had an itch. The trouble was that the itchy spot was accessible only to a hind leg. So, while still walking, the pup tried to scratch and tumbled over, rolling a couple of times before coming to rest.

In several places throughout Scripture, the apostle Paul writes about the church as the body of Christ, and of the importance of each member. Just as the dog needed each leg to stay balanced while walking, so the church needs all the different God-given gifts of its members: preachers and teachers, friendly visitors, generous givers, musicians and singers, wise parents and imaginative children, people to produce and distribute meals, newsletters, lesson materials, and on and on.

When we start thinking that some part of Christ's body isn't necessary, we risk taking quite a tumble!



Murray Warming Center

This winter will mark the 7th year of operation of the Murray Warming Center, a cooperative effort among several Murray churches to provide those in need with dinner, breakfast, a warm place to sleep, and access to shower facilities. The Center will again be hosted and housed at St John's Episcopal Church. The Warming Shelter will open on Sunday night January 4, 2015 for at least a 4 week period. First Presbyterian Church is again partnering with First Christian Church to share staffing for a week. FPC has responsibility for only 3 nights. FPC will provide volunteers on Monday Jan 12, Friday Jan 16, and Saturday Jan 17 (3 volunteer shifts each date covering 6 PM until 8 AM the following morning). Sign-up sheets are available now and more information will be provided in early January. If you have any questions please contact George Kipphut at 753-8910.



99th Make a Difference Day

Roy Stewart Stadium at MSU - January 3, 2015
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Collected Items

Eyeglasses
Plastic Containers
Glass
Newspaper, Magazines, Books
Cell Phones
Clothes
Aluminum and Tin Cans
Used Motor Oil
Shoes

If you have any questions, please
call 270-762-0300



January

Prayer Concerns

“Blessed be God, because God has not rejected my prayer or removed God’s steadfast love from me.”--Psalm 66:20

Church Members

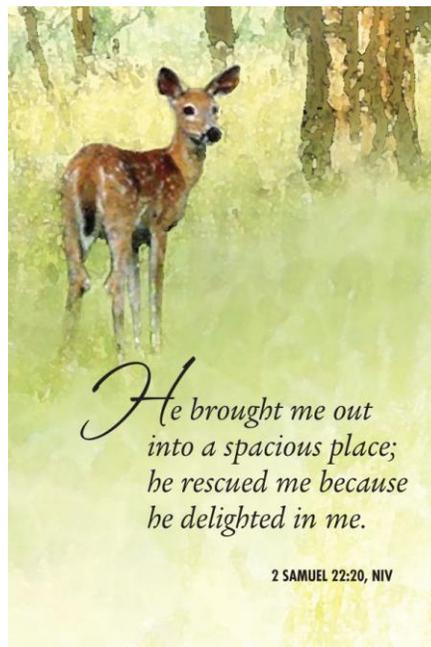
Mary Lynn Christensen	Managing Alzheimer’s
Jean Lindsey	Spring Creek for rehab in room 209
Sid Martin	Recovering from surgery
Bonnie McNeely	She has Primary Progressive MS and is learning to cope with double vision
Rosemary & Dan Moore	Health issues, grief over death of son
Debbie Plummer	Father died
Barbra Simon	Allergic reaction to medication
Mildred Valentine	At Spring Creek with dementia

Family of Church Members

Leah Barnett	Jim's Barnett's niece, diagnosed with trigeminal neuralgia
Smith Broadbent	Anne Adams’ brother-Parkinson’s
Heidi Hedstrom	Gary & Justines Ostlund’s granddaughter, cancerous tumor on pancreas
Sylvia Morrison	Whitey’s niece, multiple issues may be going to Mayo
Bonnie Owen	Barbara Conley’s cousin, cancer
Darla Parido	The Shaw’s daughter, mild heart attack
Bruce Pittman	Brother of Ralph Pittman, lung lesions; test being run
Pat Pittman	Son of Cheryl and Ralph, on-going recovery from addiction, loss of home
Joyce Tippie	Gary Ostlund’s sister, cancer
Rebecca Webb	Niece of Ralph & Cheryl Pittman, radiation treatments for breast cancer

Friends of the Church

Virginia Black	Friend of Betty Shepperson, diagnosed with Alzheimer’s
Edna Davis	Friend of Pastor Renee, stage 4 breast cancer





January 24th

Kathey & Paul Shaw

January 27th

Carleen & Joe Belcher

January 28th

Jim & Trudy McFarlane

January 29th

Brenda & Gary Marquardt

Special Dates

New Year's Day
January 1, 2015

Epiphany
January 6, 2015

Baptism of the Lord
January 11, 2015

Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity
January 18-25, 2015

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
Observance
January 19, 2015



Omitted December
Birthday:
12th-Morgan Randall

1st-Carleen Belcher
2nd-Soojin McKibben
4th-Patsy Chaney
5th-Juli McClain

7th-Marion O'Rourke
12th-Joe Belcher
13th-Al Hough

13th-James DeBoer
19th-Debbie Burgess Bell
20th-Kathey Shaw
21st-Jim Barnett
27th-Monte Fisher
28th-Virginia Parsons



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