

# HAPPENINGS

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



## Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer

Clerk of Session: Carol Allen

Treasurer: George Kipphut

Choir Director: Kate Tombaugh

Accompanist: Christy D'Ambrosio

Secretary: Andrea French

Campus Ministry Director: Lisa Polivick

Youth Director: Andrew Green

Nursery Attendants: Lindsay Crafton,  
Lexi Bergman

Custodian: Monte Fisher

Office Hours: Monday-Friday  
a.m.-12 p.m.; 1-3 p.m.

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## From Pastor Renee's Desk

This month we celebrate the most traveled holiday, Thanksgiving. There is good reason to travel—so we can be with our families. Airports are packed and highways are jammed. We subject ourselves to an inordinate amount of frustration and stress. And we do it all in order to spend time with the ones we love.

Gone are the days when we either lived with, or close to, our extended families. It used to be that spending time with grandma, grandpa, aunts, and uncles was as easy as walking across the lawn to the next house. In 2017 our lives are so chocked full of the activities and demands of work and/or school that we often do not have time even to make a quick call to connect with precious members of our extended family. Our kids are in sports, band, dance, community plays and the list continues on a mile long. And all this before the second grade! Oh how I wish that was an exaggeration.

We have lost something crucial: time. Time is usually categorized in one of two ways: we either have too much of it or not enough. When we are young time seems to drag on at a snail's pace. As we age time seems to fly by us like the wind. Then before we know it, we have no more time. Sometimes we live to regret how we have spent this most precious of God's gifts. Unfortunately, there are no re-dos in this life. Our only hope is that we can learn the hard lessons of our past so we do not repeat them in the future.

## Join Us!



### Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday  
Morning at 7 a.m.

Nov 1, Rudy's

Nov 8, Cracker Barrel

Nov 15, Crossroads

Nov 22, Hih Burger

Nov 29, Martha's



### Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

Nov 2, Cracker Barrel

Nov 9, August Moon

Nov 16, Mr. Gattis

Nov 30, Crossroads

Several years ago my mom's brother was diagnosed with cancer. My mother and sister went to Virginia to help him through his treatments. He was single and I feel relatively certain that he would not have lived through it had they not been there. My father was not in great health at the time himself. So the decision was made for him to come stay with me in Missouri while they tended to my uncle.

I was deep into the Ph.D. work at the time. Not only that but I had just been asked to teach my first World Religions course at the local university. In order to pack as much into my day as possible, I was usually up working by 5:00 in the morning and didn't finish until late in the evening. My daughter was in her first year of college and Jerry was still practicing medicine full time. Although my father was living in my house, I did not spend that much time with him. My priority was work. I had lectures to develop, papers to grade, students to see, and the list went on a mile long. Time flew by—six months to be exact, and then my father went back home because my uncle's treatments were over. Six months after my father left my house, he passed away.

I have lived to regret the way I spent my time when my father was just down the hallway. Time lost. Meaningful conversations missed. And then the hard fact: there are no re-dos.

Thankfully, the mistakes of our past do not have to be repeated. We can learn from them, do better, and live more meaningful lives. I value time with family much more now.

As most of you know I have decided not to finish the dissertation, but you may not know why. I will tell you in one word: time. The gist of it is that in order to finish the degree I would have to sacrifice the next year and the people in my life. I would have to lay Jerry and the people of the church on the altar, sacrificing time with you both for a reason that is just not important to me anymore. As I contemplated the effort it would take to finish, I thought about my father. I thought about the two years Jerry and I had already spent apart. I

thought about all the ways I would inevitably neglect members of the church. As the lesson of the past came rushing back, I knew what I needed to do. The decision was quite simple really, because my friends, there are no re-dos in this life. You've got one shot and one shot only. Make it good.

So in the midst of your hectic schedules: Stop. Take time. Really BE with your families. They are precious. You don't have all the time in the world. You only have a little so make sure you spend it wisely. Now and always.

Shalom, Pastor Renee

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## Youth-Led Sunday: October 15, 2017

We would like to recognize the following individuals who shared their time and talents with us for this wonderful gift of service:

Kate Tombaugh-Choir Director,  
Andrew Green-Youth Director,  
Laynie Mitchell, Dr. Christopher Mitchell, Sam Mitchell, Lucy Mitchell, Kat Jenkins, Charlie Jenkins. Leah Jenkins, Kennedy Miller, Aubrey Crawford, Grayson Crawford, and Cabot French.





## Clerk's Corner

*Submitted by Carol Allen*

### Stated Session Meeting : October

#### Action taken by Session

- ◆ Nominating committee reported that Shirley Latto, Tom Lyford, and Bill Stewart have been nominated for the Elder Class of 2020 and nominees for trustee are Melinda Wall for a one-year term, Gregg Heath for a two-year term, and Whitey Adams for a three-year term.
- ◆ A congregational meeting has been called for November 5, 2017 following the worship service to elect the Elder Class of 2020 and the trustees.
- ◆ The proposed budget for 2018 was approved.
- ◆ Stewardship committee recommended that the building loan be paid off in December 2017 and that the balance in the building fund be transferred to the capital fund.



## Financial Report

*From the Stewardship Committee*

- 2017 Income as of Sept 30 -- \$125,297
- 2017 Expenses as of Sept 30-- \$134,086
- Remaining Mortgage Balance as of Sept 30--\$18,139

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

Hebrews 13:5



Murray Calloway County  
Need Line

### Need Line Items Needed Update

Need Line has communicated the following needs for November: Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Dish Soap, and Laundry Detergent. If you are able to help, please drop off your donation in the Need Line basket in the Narthex at First Presbyterian Church, and we will be happy to bring it to Need Line for you.

"Need Line, a Community and Church Cooperative Ministry, is a non-profit social service agency of Murray and Calloway County, Kentucky. It exists to give assistance to persons in need. Further, Need Line seeks to provide ways by which individuals, congregations, and other organizations can respond in a coordinated and compassionate fashion to such human needs as poverty, homelessness, and neglected lives." [www.mccneedline.strikingly.com](http://www.mccneedline.strikingly.com)



Dear Friends of First Presbyterian,

Our new gathering music led by Ascher Taylor-Schroeder is entering its second month. We are blessed to have such a fine young man leading our church in this new endeavor. I know that this is a change for our church, and most of us find change difficult. Although it is something new to us, this type of meditation has been around a long time. It draws from the two thousand-year-old Christian practice of *Lectio Divina* that originated with Origen, a third century church father. It was practiced by St. Augustine and finally established as a four-step process in the twelfth century. The process is a community practice which focuses on “feasting on the word; first, taking of a bit (*lectio*); then chewing on it (*meditatio*); savoring its essence (*oratio*); and finally, making it a part of the body (*contemplatio*). In Christian teachings, this form of meditative prayer leads to an increased knowledge of Christ” (Wikipedia).

The first step of entering into this process is to prepare oneself by being still and inviting the Holy Spirit to join in the meditation. Then the participant reads a bible passage several times and “listens to the inner message of the scripture delivered through the Holy Spirit. *Lectio Divina* does not seek information or motivation, but communion with God (Wikipedia). Adding music to this contemplative tradition can enrich this experience. Gathering time just gives our congregation a chance to follow Jesus’ command to “be still and know that I am God.” We are living in a world filled with stress and anxiety, and this music provides us the opportunity to withdraw from the world, enter the sanctuary, and begin to focus upon God’s presence before the worship service begins.

When we meditate upon His word, our emotions might be stirred. I wonder why this truth makes us uncomfortable. God created us as rational and emotional beings. As Carl Jung said, “Emotion is the chief source of becoming conscious. There can be no transfiguring of darkness into light, of apathy into movement without emotion.” I am praying that our congregation will open its minds and hearts to the movement of the Holy Spirit through this practice.

The semester is flying by, and the holidays are upon us. MOTA students will be very busy as they balance studies, entertainment, and church activities. I admire them so much for their faithfulness. Please pray for them as they continue their journey toward graduation and adulthood. We have them with us for such a short time, and they are such a blessing to our congregation.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Polivick*

## MOTA 2017 Fall Calendar

We have Sunday School every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at the MOTA House. We also serve a home-cooked meal served every Sunday after church at the MOTA House.

**November 3-4:** 7 p.m. Lock-In at the MOTA House

**November 9:** 7 p.m. Bake/ Craft for Holly Berry Bake Sale at the MOTA House

**November 19:** 6 p.m. Thanksgiving meal for students and adopted parents hosted by Lisa Polivick at the Polivick Residence

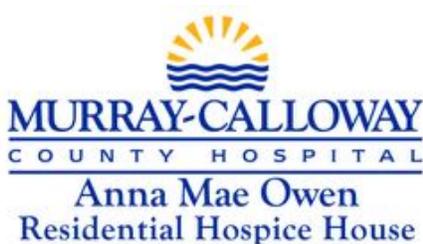
**November 23:** Thanksgiving break

**November 30:** 7 p.m. Movie Night

## Presbyterian Campus Ministry Board (PCMB) Update

*Submitted by Ken Wolf*

The Presbyterian Campus Ministry Board, which supervises our MOTA ministry, meets quarterly, includes representative from our church, MOTA alumni, and representatives from the Presbytery of Western Kentucky (our chief funding source), is delighted to announce that beginning in January, 2018, Dr. Marcie Hobbs will assume the role of chair of the committee for at least one year. Ken Wolf, current chair, will remain on the PCMB to assist Marcie during the transition. He asks that we all thank Marcie for taking on this responsibility and support her in managing and growing this very important ministry of First Presbyterian Church.



**If you would like to send correspondence to a resident of the Anna Mae Owen Hospice House, please remember to use the correct mailing address: 803 Poplar Street, Murray, KY 42071.**



## Holly Berry Bazaar

### Saturday, November 11, 2017

*Submitted by Kathie Fleming*

Holly Berry is right around the corner. Excitement is picking up and we are ready to get rolling!

#### **Sign Up for a Roll Making Workshop:**

Our Roll Making Workshop will be held at 8:30 a.m. on the following dates: Wednesday, November 1; Saturday, November 4; Monday, November 6. Each workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. until about 1 p.m. If you are able to help us make cinnamon and yeast rolls, please sign up for a workshop. The sign-up sheets are available on the sign-up table in the narthex. Please remember to pick up a recipe/items needed list, so that you are prepared and know what you will need to bring with you. These are also available on the sign-up table.

#### **Sign Up to Bring Breakfast Food for Holly Berry Tea Room :**

Once again, we will be hosting a breakfast in the "Tea Room" (Fellowship Hall) during Holly Berry. We need volunteers to sign up to bring the following items: quiche, egg casseroles, diabetic (sugar-free) items, special treats (muffins, coffee cake, etc.), sausage balls. A sign-up sheet is available on the sign-up table in the narthex.

#### **Sign Up to Work the Holly Berry Event:**

We are looking for volunteers to sign up as "Event Helpers." A sign-up sheet is located on the sign-up table in the narthex, and includes the following roles: greeters (8-9, 9-10, 10-11), Fellowship Hall table workers (cookie table, rolls/sweet bread table, pies, cakes & misc. table, bussing tables/clean up).

Thank you, everyone, for all of your help and support! If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Kathie Fleming (270) 759-1145, or (270) 293-5621.

## **New Church Directory: Save The Date!**

We are pleased to announce that we are working on our new Church Directory! Mark your calendars now: LifeTouch will take pictures of all of our families and members on the following dates and times: December 5, 6, 7, from 2-9 p.m. each day. Each individual/family will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo, as well as a free Church Directory! You will have the opportunity to purchase additional photos as you please.

Stay tuned for more details to follow soon!



## Attic Treasures at Holly Berry

*Submitted by Charlotte Gregory and Val Heath*

We're getting ready for another Holly Berry! On November 11, 2017 from 8-11 a.m., Attic Treasures will be set up in the session room. Please go through your closets, cupboards and secret hiding places to find special items for us to sell. Pretty glassware, old linens, jewelry, dishes, picture frames and Christmas items are just a few of the many treasures that are popular. We're also trying a 'New to You' option. Tables will be set up in the hallway outside of the session room to sell "garage sale" type merchandise.

You may start bringing your items in to the church the week prior to Holly Berry and put them in the session room. We do ask that you price your items. This helps us get the merchandise out quickly. We do appreciate your help with this.

## WAVE/Living Waters For the World

*Submitted by Roger Weis*

Many thanks to all who sponsored WAVE/Living Waters for the World's recent Bucket Brigade. We collected \$298, which took us over the \$10,000 mark and provided the equivalent to three purification systems serving thousands of people. Still, there are 600 million people living with contaminated water and a child dies from diseases from unclean water about every 25 minutes, so if you would like to be a part of WAVE, please contact me at [rweis@murraystate.edu](mailto:rweis@murraystate.edu). There are a number of things we can do toward our fourth system and beyond!

--Dr. Roger Weis, Chair of WAVE/First Presbyterian Church Elder.

*If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. John 7:37*

## Cranberry Sauce Drive: Need Line Christmas Basket

We will soon start collecting cans of cranberry sauce, which will be sent to Need Line for its annual Christmas Basket program. Our church's Outreach Committee has pledged to send 300 cans this year. The final day cans may be turned in to FPC is Sunday, December 3. Stay tuned for more details about this neat outreach project!



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

Hello, Presbyterian Women! November is a busy month and, as a reminder, we are not holding our Brown Bag Lunch during this month.

Along with Holly Berry, we are gearing up to assist with our community-wide Back Pack Program!

This special program helps pre-school/school-aged children by providing much-needed nutrition over the weekend, when there otherwise might not be anything else at home to eat. Teachers discreetly place the food packs into the child's backpack before going home for the weekend.

Last year we made about 250 sacks per week. We typically furnish the following supplies (7 items) in each back pack sack: Fruit Cups, Pudding Cups, Yahoo Drinks (shelf-stable milk in chocolate/strawberry flavors), Cheese Crackers, Individual-Sized Boxes of Cereal, 100% Fruit Juice Cartons, Cereal Bars or Pop Tarts, Candy Canes (for that special Christmas touch!).

The funds raised through our Holly Berry fundraiser will help purchase all of the supplies needed to make these back pack sacks. We are planning to assemble them on the following dates:

**Wednesday, November 29, 1 p.m.**

**Tuesday, December 5, 5 p.m.** (A joint-effort with older youth, pizza served at 5 p.m., with assembly beginning at 5:30 p.m.)

**Wednesday, December 13, 1 p.m.**

Each assembly will take approximately a couple of hours. Volunteers will immediately deliver the back pack sacks to the following locations in our community: Calloway Pre-School, Calloway Family Resource Center, Murray Family Resource Center, Murray Head Start.

If you would like to get involved with this wonderful community project, please contact Ann Stanley (270-753-8747) or [asjstanley33@twc.com](mailto:asjstanley33@twc.com) for more information.

## **Dorothy McKenzie & Dorothy Moore Circles**

The Dorothy McKenzie and Dorothy Moore Circles will meet together at church on Monday, November 13, at 1 p.m. New women are always welcome to attend. We are a friendly bunch!

## Beth Belote Circle

The Beth Belote Circle will meet at Debbie Burgess' home on Thursday, November 2, at 6 p.m. Any woman is invited to enjoy food and fellowship, even if she has not yet read the material. Debbie's home is located at 1710 Audubon in Murray.



## Soup For The Soul

*Submitted by Ann Stanley*

Do you know about Soup For The Soul? It is Murray's "new" Soup Kitchen, which opened in June of 2015, and is located at 411 Maple Street. Remarkably, it runs entirely on donated food. With the help of volunteers, Soup For The Soul fights hunger in our community one plate at a time. Our next time to serve at Soup For The Soul is Monday, November 20. If you would like a chance to serve others, meet some new people from church, and feel good at the same time, let me know, and I'll get you signed up! Give me a call 753 - 8747 or email [asjstanley33@twc.com](mailto:asjstanley33@twc.com).

## Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Banquet

*Submitted by Deanna Wolf*

On November 9, the Murray United Way, with the sponsorship of several local businesses and agencies, will host a Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Banquet at the Curris Center Ballroom on the Murray State campus. The event starts at 6 p.m. and will demonstrate clearly the division in food distribution between the "have's" and the "have-not's". Each person attending will be randomly assigned a number that corresponds to three tiers of meals that will be served. One meal will be for the wealthy group, one for the middle class, and one for the poor. Local Calloway County statistics for residents' high, medium, and low income levels will be used to assign participants to each of the three groups. This is an excellent way to educate and sensitize ourselves about the scope of both hunger and homelessness in our own community. Tickets are \$50 per person and all proceeds will be shared equally between Gentry House, Soup for the Soul, and Murray-Calloway County Need Line. Please see Deanna Wolf for tickets (I'm on the Need Line Board of Directors and we are selling them) or for more information (270-293-5502). Checks should be made out to United Way.

## Youth Group & Wednesday Night Live

Youth Director: Andrew Green; 270-978-1527; [andrewgreen12@gmail.com](mailto:andrewgreen12@gmail.com)

### November Schedule:

**Nov 1:** 5:30 p.m. Youth Group at FPC, Meet at the MOTA House

**Nov 8: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live** at FCC. Theme: Environmental Night. What does it mean to be good stewards of God's planet?

**Nov 15: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live** at FPC. Theme: Operation Christmas Child. Come pack shoe boxes filled with gifts to send to children around the world!

**Nov 22: No Youth Group (Thanksgiving Week)**

**Nov 29: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live** at FCC. Theme: Peru Night. Come and hear Rose talk about her experiences in Peru this past summer and try some Peruvian food!



## Alternative Christmas Gift Market

Save the Date: December 10, 17

*Submitted by Deanna Wolf*

If, like me, you are hearing Christmas bells ringing in the distance, you may have already let out a groan of anticipated overload. Not to fear! We can help you ease one part of your Christmas chaos. Your Outreach Committee is again sponsoring an Alternative Christmas Gift Market. Here's your opportunity to easily buy gifts for some of the toughest people on your list....the ones who don't want or need ANY thing in the world, but who you love, respect, admire, like, and want them to KNOW that. We will have an Christmas catalog of charities, some old friends and some new comers, from which you can choose an alternative gift of a charitable contribution to give to those tough folks. It's the gift that gives twice! We will have a variety of choices so you can pick the one that would be most meaningful to your giftee. More info to come shortly but in the meantime, save the dates of December 10 and 17 for our 2017 Alternative Christmas Gift Markets!



**November 15**

**First Presbyterian Church**

*Submitted by Marcie Johnson*

Join us for Wednesday Night Live in helping to spread Christmas cheer around the globe. At 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15, you can enjoy an intergenerational dinner, and then a sharing of Christmas spirit as the adults help our young people pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Of course, you can help by donating items to pack in those boxes, too. School supplies, grooming tools (barrettes, headbands, combs, toothbrushes), children's or teens' socks and underwear, flashlights with the necessary batteries---lots of items we might take for granted will be cherished by young people who receive the boxes. {We are asked to avoid breakable items (e.g., snowglobes) or foods that could cause allergies, and toys should not include any weapons.} For a generous list of gift ideas, see <https://www.samaritanpurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and help to make the season truly joyful!

# Head & Heart

*Submitted by Ken Wolf*

Head and Heart Book Discussion Group will meet at 7-9 p.m. on Thursday November 16. The Topic for this meeting is Part 3, Chapters 9-13 of Walter Wink's Engaging the Powers: Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination. This section deals with how to engage the Powers nonviolently. Notes will be provided. All are welcome.

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## New Staff Update: Nursery Attendants

*Submitted by Terry Foreman*

We are pleased to announce we have hired two new nursery attendants for our nursery at First Presbyterian Church!

Our regular Sunday nursery attendant is Lindsay Crafton, a 20-year-old junior at Murray State. Her academic major, Communication Disorders, equips her to be especially sensitive to how children use language. She is a member of a number of organizations on campus, including the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She works on campus in Alexander Hall's Teacher Education Services (where Carol Allen works). In her free time, Lindsay likes to hang out with her family in southeast Missouri and friends. We welcome you to your new position, Lindsay! Please be sure to stop by and say "hello" to Lindsay the next time you are here to worship with us.

Our nursery alternate is Ashton "Lexi" Bergman, who is currently attending Murray State and studying Communication Disorders. She is a senior and plans to attend graduate school to become a Speech-Language Pathologist. She says she has always adored working with children! She previously worked as a full-time nanny in her hometown of Louisville, Ky and currently works as a classroom assistant in a special education classroom at Calloway County High School. In her spare time she enjoys crafting and hiking in LBL with her friends and puppy! On campus, she is an active member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. We welcome you to the team, Lexi!





## November Birthdays

Bev Reuter, Nov 3  
Ann Stanley, Nov 8  
Jamie Helton, Nov 12  
Zach Burgess, Nov 14  
Gregg Heath, Nov 15  
Terry Holmes, Nov 15  
Terri Long, Nov 17  
Ross Meloan, Nov 18  
Chris Mitchell, Nov 25  
Robin Holmes, Nov 28

## November Anniversaries

Ann & Jerry Stanley, Nov 6  
Joan & Whitey Adams, Nov 7

I will give thanks to you, LORD,  
with all my heart; I will tell of all  
your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1

To the Murray First Presbyterian Church:

Thank you, thank for your many prayers and notes for Gary and me. The recovery is slow but will come. It is so wonderful to hear from you. We really miss you all. You are great, and have to know that your Congregational Care rates 5 stars.! You are a wonderful congregation that cares for the family of God. Our love to you all, *Justine & Gary Ostlund*



## 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 and Regular Attendees

Juli McClain and Family	Passing of her father, Dan
Cheryl Pittman	Foot (nerve) pain
Sue Cochran	Neuropathy treatments
Kathie Fleming	Recovery from knee surgery
Dennis Mills	Recovery from back surgery
Maryann Mitchell	Hospice House
Cindy Barnett	Wisdom for helping her daughter
Ralph Pittman	Hand recovery
Justine Ostlund	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
Bev Reuter	Radiation treatment
Bill Thurman	Cancer, on Hospice
Warren Thomas	Home
Paul Shaw	Declining health due to Parkinson’s Disease
Mary Lynn Christensen	At Brookdale
Sal Matarazzo	Congestive heart failure
Rosemary Moore	Health issues
Barbara Simons	Health issues

