

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:

Custodian: Monte Fisher

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1-3 p.m.

From Pastor Renee's Desk

I think you may have noticed that First Presbyterian is beginning to look a little different. A concept I try to teach our youngest disciples is that a church is made of its people, not its building. No doubt we feel blessed and thankful to have this beautiful facility. I do not want to minimize that; the fact that you have faithfully given of your financial resources so that the mortgage debt will be retired soon is phenomenal.

I am actually referring to our body of believers and the fact that our demographics are changing. We have been praying every Sunday for more individuals and families to become a part of this community of faith. I have known all along that your gifts of love, acceptance, and compassion, as first experienced by visitors through your warm welcoming attitude, would be the central reason that folks come back. All we needed to figure out was how to get people through the doors! While God has certainly been answering our prayers by sending folks our way, you have encouraged people to visit us, as well. Bravo! Keep it up!

Even though we have a fabulously-talented music program, and I like to think that the preaching is better than average—I firmly believe that what keeps people coming back is your warm, welcoming spirit. At the end of the day, what we really need is relationship with the Divine and with fellow travelers on this journey called life. When our lives become chaotic, when we suffer illness, grief, pain, or when we hurt when our loved ones hurt, we need support, encouragement, and compassion from others. I

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday
Morning at 7 a.m.

Oct. 4, Cracker Barrel

Oct. 11, Crossroads

Oct. 18, Hih Burger

Oct. 25, Martha's



Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

Oct. 5, The Garden Cafe

Oct. 12, Mr. B's

Oct. 19, Dumplin's

Oct. 26, Sirloin Stockade

witness this support system at our church on a daily basis. Just as important, a community of faith should also be a place where celebrations and joys can take place: a new birth, marriage, baptisms, birthdays, anniversaries—anything of importance that happens in our lives is truly meant to be shared with one another. And it is in the sharing that we receive the blessing.

I have heard it said by a number of folks who have been new to our congregation (at least since my tenure), that this is the friendliest church they have ever attended. The session has heard this statement from me many times, “There is not a church anywhere that doesn’t see itself as friendly.” The truth, however, may be different than their self-perception. Many churches are not friendly. They have trouble incorporating new folks into their church family. I have heard it said at virtually every church I have pastored, “I like knowing everyone. I don’t like it when I do not know everyone’s name!” While this is admirable, as a church gets larger and larger it is often impossible to know everyone. Many folks are therefore resistant to growth, and they may not even realize that it is this subconscious desire to remain “a church family, where everyone knows your name” (yes kind of like the Cheers theme song!) that drives this resistance.

As a church grows, folks will develop sub-communities, within Sunday school classes, special fellowship groups (like The Group here), wherein they get the fellowship and support they need, as well as the opportunity to participate in different kinds of mission and service activities. Every church has these different bands of folks within it already, regardless of a church’s size; they just become people’s “small church feel” when the congregation grows larger.

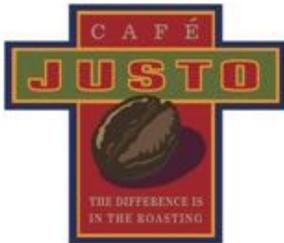
Through our growth, I challenge you to remain welcoming. When the church changes so much that you don’t remember some names—it’s okay, you can still be warm and welcoming, helping visitors to feel a part of the congregation. Point them to various groups within the church where they can meet a smaller number of people. By really getting to know others, they will feel a part of the First Presbyterian Church family!!

May God bless us as we seek to be faithful to our calling in Christ. May we truly have Open minds, Open hearts, and Open hands!
Shalom, Pastor Renee

Friends in Faith

Submitted by Roger Weis

We are celebrating our tenth year of Friends - In - Faith interdenominational communion at Hickory Woods. This initiative started out as a First Presbyterian mission but now includes First Christian and First Methodist. It is held on the second Tuesday at 3 p.m. every month and the residents love it when other folks come to share stories....you'll hear some of the wackiest stories ever told, and then we offer communion that some folks would never have but for our ministry. For more information, please contact Dr. Roger Weis, rweis@murraystate.edu.



More than Fair – More than Just Coffee

Submitted by Cindy Barnett

A new shipment of freshly roasted coffee has arrived!

What? Café Justo is a network of coffee grower cooperatives in Mexico that grow, roast, package, and ship their own coffee.

Why? Sustainable wages, environmentally sound growing practices, and families are able to stay together on their lands.

How? Café Justo is made from 100% Arabica beans which are grown without chemical fertilizers or pesticides. The coffee trees are cultivated beneath shade trees which allows for a better tasting, more environmentally friendly coffee.

Members of Café Justo cooperatives are paid \$2.25 or more per pound of coffee – higher than even Fair Trade standards, and more than three times the 35 to 50 cents growers are typically paid by standard commercial operations. Our commitment adds up to more than dollars — or pesos — and cents. It adds up to strong futures. All of the growers and employees of Café Justo, and its member cooperatives, receive medical benefits and a pension plan.

Who? Just Coffee is about a direct relationship between the coffee drinker and grower. It is about our cooperative members and our children having the opportunity to work on our ancestral lands and stay here doing what we like best, growing some of the best coffee in the world and sharing it with our friends and customers.

Where? Café Justo is available in 1-lb. bags of dark roast, ground coffee in the church narthex for \$11. Please make out checks to Presbyterian Women—who make no profit from the sales. (If you prefer whole bean or medium-roast varieties, please let us know and we will order them just for you or your loved ones.) Visit www.justcoffee.org to learn more!



Clerk's Corner

Submitted by Carol Allen

Stated Session Meeting

September 18

Action taken by Session

- ◆ Session received into active membership Kate Tombaugh by transfer of letter from Park Presbyterian Church, Streator, IL and Steve Weimer by profession of faith.
- ◆ Session accepted the ad hoc committee's welcome statement for the website and issued an invitation to the congregation to contribute to the discussion on church values.



Financial Report

From the Stewardship Committee

Thank you to all who have kept up with donations to both our church and to our Building Fund over the summer. In addition, several generous donations were received in support of our Choir Intern program.

2017 income as of July 31 — \$117,108

2017 expenses as of July 31 — \$118,487

Remaining Mortgage Balance as of July 31 - \$21,418

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows...Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
Psalm 23:5-6*

Soup For The Soul

Submitted by Ann Stanley



Our Monday night Soup for the Soul was another wonderful night of service, food, and fun. I was joined by George Kipphut, Cheryl Pittman, Marcie Johnson, Eleanor Rivera and Debbie Hixon. Eleanor and Debbie were our saviors: they came closer to the end of serving and helped with the cleanup! We actually got off easier as Soup for the Soul had just received some donated food that had already been prepared and all we had to do was heat it up! Next time may not be quite so easy.

Our next time to serve is November 20th. 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.



Dear Friends of First Presbyterian,

MOTA students and I are excited to announce that a new staff member, Ascher Taylor-Schroeder, will be joining us on October 15 to lead our congregation in singing “gathering” music. He will begin to play each Sunday at 10:30 as we gather for worship and continue playing until the worship begins at 10:45. We urge you to come into the sanctuary and join us in praise and worship of our Lord.

Ascher is a music education major at Murray State University. He comes from a family of musicians and was given his first guitar at age ten. When he started college, he focused on the trumpet. However, he plays the guitar so well that he recently decided to change his focus to guitar. Ascher was reared in a large nondenominational urban church, Crossroads Christian Church in Newburgh, Indiana, where he has participated in the praise band throughout his life. For the last two summers, he served as a student intern for the praise team ministry at this church. You can check out this church online if you are interested in learning more.

Ascher will be leading the church in a mixture of old, favorite hymns and contemporary religious music. His ministry is being funded by MOTA. Both First Baptist and First Methodist have added separate contemporary services that have substantially increased their overall church membership, and we see this ministry not only as a blessing to our congregation, but also as an outreach to young adults who attend our services. We are blessed to have such remarkable music in our church.

Another exciting event coming up this summer is our mission trip to Chimaltenango, Guatemala on June 23-30. Our church will send an intergenerational team to work with Grace English School. The school was founded by an American couple after their child, Grace, passed away. Jenna Goggins, the minister of First Presbyterian Church of Paducah, has worked with them in the past. The school is being directed by Logan Sierra, who grew up as an orphan in Guatemala. He was later adopted by an American couple and attended high school and college in the USA and then returned to help other poor Guatemalan children. You can learn more about the school at graceenglishschool.org.

The school began as an after-school program to teach English to Guatemalan students to enhance their ability of finding employment. It has gradually expanded into a Christian School which offers music lessons and computer skill development as well as more traditional academic pursuits. The mission team is planning to build a cinder block house for a family associated with the school at a cost of \$2,500.00; hold a Vacation Bible School for the kids; and donate shoes, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

If a physician accompanies the team, a medical clinic will be set up. There is a dental chair in the school, so a dental mission is a possibility. The team will also do the preliminary work on establishing an area near the school as a Living Waters of the World site. Installing a new system now costs \$8500.00, so plans are being made to raise the money and return in 2019 to install the water system. Rubenia Sanchez, a representative of Living Waters for the World, will be in Paducah October 8-15 and could be available to speak to our church about this mission.

Mission team members will be housed in dorms at the Seminario Biblico Guatemalteco, a fenced college with security. Vans, drivers, and cooks will be hired for the team. Team members will be responsible for one day of food on their own as we sightsee. The cost for going on the mission trip will be approximately \$2000.00 a person or slightly less, depending on the price of plane tickets.

MOTA has cut back in other areas to budget \$6000.00 for missions this year. We have also reserved some travel money to use. MOTA students will be holding some fundraising activities. Jenna Goggins needs for adult travelers to commit to the trip by Christmas; others, by the end of January. Please be praying about your involvement in this event. We believe that participating in missions to alleviate some of the poverty in the world changes our congregants' lives as well as the lives of the people served.

I am proud to share that Da'Sha and Jennifer Goggins will be making a presentation to the ~~Presbyterian Women's Retreat at Kentucky Dam Village on the weekend of October 13-14~~ about last year's mission trip. They will present on Saturday morning at 11:15. I plan to attend on Saturday. Let me know if you would like to go along to support her. Da'Sha and Brett also plan to attend the Montreat conference for college students.

In other news, MOTA students will be setting up coffee bars and passing out brochures about MOTA in various dorms on campus during October and November as a campus outreach project. Please see our calendar for other activities.

In Christ's Love,

Lisa Polivick



MOTA 2017 Fall Calendar

Sunday School every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at the MOTA House. Pastries provided!

Dinner every Sunday after worship at the MOTA House.

October 1-7: Lisa's Fall Break

October 5-8: Students' Fall Break

October 11: MOTA Campus Outreach--Coffee Bar at Elizabeth College

October 15: First morning of "gathering music" with Ascher Taylor-Schroeder

October 19: at the Wolfs' house

October 26: Halloween Party at Polivicks' house

October 28: Fall Festival at First Presbyterian Church--wear your costumes

November 3-4: Lock-In at the MOTA house

November 9: Bake/ Craft for Holly Berry Bake Sale

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

November 23: Thanksgiving break

November 30: Movie Night

Family Fall Festival

6 p.m., Saturday, October 28

First Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 28, at 6 p.m. Whether you are a goblin or a ghoul, this fun evening is geared toward everyone's delight!



We'll enjoy a potluck dinner, treats, games for children, board games/card games for adults, bobbing for apples, and of course, a pumpkin decorating contests--BYOP (bring your own pumpkin)! MOTA will be supplying the paint and pumpkin decorating supplies.

The festival would not be complete without costumes, so children and adults, remember to dress up! Prizes will be awarded for "best of" categories. We hope to see you here! A sign up sheet is available in the narthex if you would like to bring food or a treat to share.

Head & Heart

Submitted by Ken Wolf

Head & Heart will meet again at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 19. We will continue our review of "Engaging the Powers" by Walter Wink. Although published 25 years ago by a Methodist theologian, it is a very timely look at the ethical issues that many Christians face in our current social and political climate. We will be reading and discussing Part 2 (pp. 104-168) at our meeting on October 19, and Parts 3 and 4 in November and December (or January if we get bogged down). Anyone interesting in some "heavy" but fascinating reading--with many great footnote references--should consider joining us.

Friends in Faith

Submitted by Roger Weis

WAVE/Living Waters for the World is entering it's 3rd "Splashdown for WAVE/LWW in which we do events in September & October on campus and a corporate sponsorship and church bucket brigades off campus. To date, we have sponsored \$7000, or the equivalency of 2 water purification systems serving several thousand people and we are on our way to a 3rd. If you would like to know how you can help, please contact Dr. Roger Weis rweis@murraystate.edu.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Hello, Presbyterian Women! Our next Brown Bag will be Monday, Oct. 2 at church at 11:30 a.m. The HollyBerry will be the subject of discussion. Please bring a sack lunch, dessert will be provided.

If you are new to the church or just not familiar with the organization Presbyterian Women, we are an organization made up of all the women in the church. Most Presbyterian churches have this organization. Sometimes we have regular meetings (which are called “Brown Bags” because we bring our own lunch) to organize and discuss, sometimes we do service projects, sometimes we do fun evenings full of food and a time to get to know one another. You can come to one thing or you can come to every single meeting and event we have. You, as a woman in this church are welcome at all times! Please contact Ann Stanley (270-753-8747) or asjstanley33@twc.com for more information.

Our Schedule is as Follows:

- ◆ Monday, Oct. 2, 11:30 a.m. - Regular brown bag meeting at church.
- ◆ Saturday, Nov. 11, 8 a.m. - HollyBerry at FPC.
- ◆ December is Back Pack month, schedule to be announced.
- ◆ Monday, Jan. 8, 11:30 a.m. - Regular brown bag meeting at church.
- ◆ Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6-7:30 p.m. - “Women to Women” come and join us for supper at church but don’t bring food, bring women’s personal care products for Need Line. Watch future newsletters for details. Supper will be provided!
- ◆ Monday, March 5, 11:30 a.m. - Regular brown bag meeting at church. Guest speaker, Marion O’Rourke, will give a talk on First Presbyterian Church Women’s History.
- ◆ Monday, April 2, 11:30 a.m. - Regular brown bag meeting at church to elect new officers
- ◆ Monday, May 7, 11:30 a.m. - Regular brown bag meeting at church to install new officers

Dorothy McKenzie & Dorothy Moore Circles

The Dorothy McKenzie and Dorothy Moore Circles will meet together at church on Monday, Oct. 9, at 1 p.m. We will be discussing Chapter 2 in our book, "Cloud of Witnesses."



Murray Calloway County
Need Line

Need Line Items Needed Update

Need Line continues to experience a shortage of anti-perspirant/deodorant for both men and women. 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.

Beth Belote Circle

The Beth Belote Circle usually meets on the first Thursday of each month, but to accommodate MSU's fall break, our October meeting will take place a week later, on the twelfth. We will be discussing the introduction and first chapter of Paula Gooder's *The Meaning Is in the Waiting: The Spirit of Advent*. There are copies available in the office for \$12. Any woman is invited, even if she has not yet read the material. Please join us at Debbie Burgess's home, 1710 Audubon, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 12.

Hygiene Kits

Submitted by Cheryl Pittman

The Church World Services of PC (USA) requests donations for hygiene kits to keep on hand in preparation for disasters. Our Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery are collecting them for our Fall Gathering on October 13-14. Please bring completed Hygiene Kits in Ziploc bags and place them in the green container in the narthex. We thank you for your support!

- ✦ One hand towel, measuring approximately 16 x 28 inches (no fingertip or bath towels, please)
- ✦ One washcloth
- ✦ One wide-tooth comb (in package)
- ✦ One nail clipper (in package)
- ✦ One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- ✦ One toothbrush (in original





Holly Berry Bazaar

Saturday, November 11, 2017

Submitted by Kathie Fleming

Holly Berry will be here before we know it! Be sure to build preparation time for this festive event into your calendars. It takes us all to make it a success.

Dates for November Roll Making Workshops:

We will make yeast rolls and cinnamon rolls on the following dates: Wednesday, November 1; Saturday, November 4; Monday, November 6. Each workshop will run from 8 a.m. until about 1 p.m.

Start Now: Opportunities to Help:

- ✦ In the upcoming weeks, bake ahead, as appropriate and freeze. We need rolls, pies, cakes, cookies, sweet breads, muffins, home canned goods and jellies, etc.
- ✦ Do you have room in your freezer for the yeast rolls? Between yeast rolls and cinnamon rolls, we make 90-100 dozen.
- ✦ Save large bags with handles and small boxes for the patrons to gather up goods and carry out.
- ✦ Think creatively – Provide fudge or other candy, snack items, small craft items, home canned vegetables or jellies
- ✦ There will be sign up sheets for items needed for the Tea Room (Fellowship Hall): Breakfast Casseroles, Quiches, Muffins, Ham or Sausage Biscuits, Plain Biscuits for sausage gravy, Potato Casseroles, Orange Juice, Coffee, Hot Cider, Milk
- ✦ We will need help putting signs outside the church a week or so in advance for advertising. Additionally, we will take small posters around to various areas a couple weeks in advance. (See Joan Adams on posters and Anne Adams for anything she needs help with in Publicity.)

Setting up for Holly Berry:

- ✦ Friday, 11/10 – Set up and decorate. Help apply price tags. Wipe out condensation in bags of rolls from being frozen. Bring in items for Attic Treasures (See Val Heath or Charlotte Gregory) We will need card tables brought in from our homes.

Day of Holly Berry Event

- ◆ Saturday, 11/11 – Arrive by 7 am.
- ◆ Folks needed for the following areas:

Greeters

Men – work in the kitchen (See Harry Conley)

Work by silent auction items, encouraging participation

Work the cookie tables (See Debbie Burgess)

Work the roll/sweet bread tables

Work the cake and pie tables

Bus tables in the Tea Room, update coffee and supplies

Help patrons carry out purchases

Cashiers may be needed (see Marcie Johnson.)

Again, it takes the whole church....Thanks in advance! If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Kathie Fleming. (270 759-1145 or 270 293-5621)

Wednesday Night Live & Youth Group

Youth Director: Andrew Green; 270-978-1527; andrewgreen12@gmail.com

October Schedule

October 4: No Youth Group (Public School Fall Break)

October 11: Wednesday Night Live, FCC . Theme: Simchat Torah. Come and experience a special Jewish holy day!

October 18: Youth Group, FCC.

October 25: Wednesday Night Live, FCC . Theme: Fall Festival. Come and play carnival games!

A PRAYER FOR PUERTO RICO, IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANES MARIA AND IRMA

September 26, 2017

God of our life, whose presence sustains us in every circumstance, After the
fury of waters and wind, across the quieter waves of our neighboring sea, we
turn our eyes to our neighbors in Puerto Rico
who in the storm's wake continue to suffer

We cry, mercy! for those whose lives are changed forever
by ravages of wind and water

We pray for solace, sustenance, and strength in the months
and years of recovery that lie ahead.

For courage to face enormous challenges, relief and respite from urgent
need, with an outpouring of care as the world responds, comfort and the
hope of peace for those who grieve the loss of family, home, and safety, and
faith to walk on through this valley of shadows.

May we, who watch, and pray, and respond, see in their faces, Your face.

May we not turn away from suffering, nor forget their needs when the
seasons turn. May we be steadfast in Love, stronger than death, and thus,
with those whose lives we seek to sustain,
together bear witness to Your redeeming Love.

In the name of Christ the Healer we pray, amen.

---The Rev. Dr. Laurie A Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

To learn what the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is doing to help the victims of
natural disasters, and how you can make an impact, please visit Presbyterian
Disaster Assistance:

<http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hurricane-irma/>



Hello
October

October Birthdays

Ken Wolf, Oct. 2
Andrea French, Oct. 2
Roger Weis, Oct. 9
Pete O'Rourke, Oct. 10
Eva Hopkins, Oct. 10
Anne Adams, Oct. 10
Cabot French, Oct. 11
Ellen Bravard, Oct. 11
Carol Allen, Oct. 12
Rosemary Moore, Oct. 14
Ralph Hundley, Oct. 15
Todd French, Oct. 17
Aubrey Crawford, Oct. 27

October Anniversaries

Steven Weimer &
Kate Tombaugh,
Oct. 25

On Fields O'er Which the Reaper's Hand has Passed

by Henry David Thoreau

On fields o'er which the reaper's hand has pass'd

Lit by the harvest moon and autumn sun,
My thoughts like stubble floating in the wind

And of such fineness as October airs,
There after harvest could I glean my life

A richer harvest reaping without toil,
And weaving gorgeous fancies at my will

In subtler webs than finest summer haze.





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

Sue Cochran	Neuropathy treatments
Kathie Fleming	Upcoming 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	Strength and recovery after chemotherapy
Bill Thurman	Cancer
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
Korean Church	Has interim pastor who is a chaplain at Fort Campbell

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Niko	Testicular cancer (spread to lungs, brain)
Ruth Ann (Ken Wolf's sister)	Health complications from knee surgery
Family of Erin Kaplan	
Bethany (Marion O'Rourke's daughter)	Loss of a friend
Ruth Daughaday, friend of FCC	(recovery from knee surgery)
Laura	Strength and direction during a difficult time
Bruce Pittman	Heart problems
Family of Caroline Jones	
Family of Rev. Don Troutman	
Devin Hawkins and Family	Passing of Wife and Son
Terri Prince	Lung cancer and chemo
Family of Judy Crofton	Passing of Mother, Rita Bush
Murray Wall	Recovery from surgery, divorce
Dan (Juli McClain's Father)	On Hospice care
Edna Davis (Pastor Renee's Friend)	On Hospice care
Family of Mildred Valentine	
Family of Betty Shepperson	
Family of Sally Wright (Todd's Mother)	
Family of Betty Brown, especially Harry	
Tabitha & Junior	Pittman's family
Earline Clark	Toni Belcher's mother
Sandy Cunningham	Pastor Renee's mother, severe macular degeneration
Jack Flagg	Friend of Ralph Pittman, lung cancer

Dan	Juli McClain's father, Spring Creek
Smith Broadbent	Anne Adams' brother, Parkinson's
Don Knop	Barbara Conley's brother-in-law, cancer