

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

Admin Assistant: Andrea French

Music Director: Kate Tombaugh

Accompanist: Christy D'Ambrosio

Campus Ministry Director: Lisa Polivick

Youth Director: Andrew Green

Storyteller: Lucy Mitchell

Nursery Attendants: Mandy Brogan,
Lucy Mitchell

Custodian: Monte Fisher

Summer Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; F- 3:15 p.m.

Closed Fridays

From Pastor Renee's Desk

Church growth experts will tell you that any new ministry in a congregation or new church plant needs a critical mass in order to be successful. If a church adds a new worship service they will ask 20-25 people from the original service to begin attending the new service until its numbers are sufficient in size. At that point those 25 people may return to their original service. It is the same if, for example, Western Kentucky Presbytery begins a new church plant. We must have that critical mass so that when new folks arrive, they will see the congregation as healthy and growing. So 25 people from another congregation will commit to attending the new church development until it takes off.

I know that many of you have not invested yourselves in the new contemporary praise music time that begins at 10:30 a.m. during the regular worship schedule. I understand that it is not everyone's cup of tea. I also understand that many of you prefer to fellowship with one another in the vestibule rather than participate. I respect all of those perspectives. So I am asking for your willingness to be "on loan" to this ministry, so that it has the critical mass we need in order to appeal to prospective members. We are not getting any younger as a congregation and so we must try things that might also appeal to a younger demographic if we want to have a future. In this newsletter edition, Lisa Polivick's article talks about how important music like this is in attracting young adults. While it is true that other age

Join Us!



Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday
Morning at 7 a.m.

August 1, Martha's

August 8, Rudy's

August 15, Cracker Barrel

August 22, Crossroads

August 29, Hih Burger



Lunch Bunch

Every Thursday at 12 p.m.

August 2, Cracker Barrel

August 9, Mugsy's

August 16, Big Apple

August 23, Jasmine Thai

August 30, Applebee's

groups can enjoy this type of music, for the young adult demographic, it is often mandatory.

And yet, this new praise music is not designed just for our college students. I think many folks are under this impression. Yes, the funds for the ministry are provided through MOTA and it is led by two college students, but this music ministry is for the whole church and for folks in the community who are searching for a place with this type of music because it best nourishes their spirits. There are people who desire to find a church that offers this, as well as some of the things we pride ourselves in already being: welcoming; compassionate; outreach oriented; a thinking church that doesn't offer quick or easy answers to difficult or complex questions; as well as a church that is dedicated to justice issues. So please, be on loan until the critical mass occurs. It is no exaggeration that the future of our congregation rests on creative outreach programs like this.

While I am talking about young adults, I want to bring to your attention something of great concern to me. The issue stood out in stark relief against the backdrop of VBS. We do not have enough people visibly invested in our young families. And when I say "visibly," I mean we need more of our church family to step up and volunteer to be "hands on" with this age group. We had plenty of folks to help with the VBS dinner on Thursday night. I thank you for that. What we did not have were more people from our church here the rest of the week. We had two folks who were completely invested all week and that was it. I have a feeling that many of you do not feel "gifted" or "called" to help in this way. But I hope you see that this kind of mindset is not helpful. We need our church family to be present. For example, something we absolutely need people to show up for is Wednesday Night Live programming, both when it is at our church and when it is at First Christian Church. We will kick off the new year in September, so when you see that it begins, please come out. Much of the time our youth and I are the only ones who are a part of this vital ministry (for children and adults of all ages). This will be our

3rd year.

I also have a concern that some of our young families might not be feeling as supported as they should. Most of them are not from Murray and most do not have family around to offer a support system. I want to propose doing something similar with them as we have done with our MOTA students. We have an “adopt-a-student” program, but I would like to add a “surrogate grandparent” program. Those of us who are grandparent age are encouraged to sign up for this program. We will put the sign-up sheet on the usual vestibule table. We have several young families that I would like to see paired with a grandparent(s) figure. We would keep in regular contact and offer say some free kid sitting time so parents can have a date night here and there. We can go out to dinner with the family or have them over to our own homes to eat, offer to meet them at WNL, or whatever creative idea you come up with. We also need people to say “yes” when asked to teach/assist with Sunday school, VBS, Easter egg hunt, be on the Christian Education Committee, or whatever. I know that you truly care about our young families and in no way am I diminishing that. I just think we need to do a little more to walk the talk. For those of us who have grandchildren (I’m about to be in that category!!) who do not live near us, wouldn’t it be wonderful for a church to come along side of them and serve as surrogates when we cannot be there? No one would begrudge that I’m sure.

I have been concentrating a lot on our younger demographic in this article. That does not mean that ministry to and for our older population is not equally as important, because it is! So no, my friends, you are not being pushed aside. And no, the preacher doesn’t care more about the young folks than our older ones! But the bottom line is, unless we add more young adults, we will go the way so many Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and denomination are going: They are just barely hanging on. We will be in survival mode as natural attrition has its effect on us.

So we need to make sure that our young families are feeling supported. And when we do a good job of that, it will be our best marketing tool. They will brag to their friends about how supported they feel here, and voila—we will attract even more young families to our congregation!! And this church will live on well past all our time here.

I encourage you to be thinking how you might be of help in this direction. Some important first steps: loan yourself to the praise music before worship and become a surrogate grandparent to a family!! These two things would be a terrific start!! Shalom, Pastor Renee



Save the Date!
Our Next ARC Blood Drive Will Be Held
On:
Thursday, August 16, 2018



Submitted by Shirley Latto

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. --2 Corinthians 9:8

This verse seems to be the heart of our Presbyterian Women's philosophy, and we want to invite all women to join us. With the exception of August, we meet the first Monday of each month at Church in the session room. These are called "Brown Bag" lunch meetings and they provide us with time to organize our plans for upcoming events, as well as time to revisit and refine past accomplishments. For those who are unable to attend during the day, we try to schedule an evening during the year so that everyone can be present. We urge each woman at First Presbyterian Church to join us and come as often as you are able. We enjoy the support and sisterhood of this group as we work together to accomplish good things, not only for our community but for the world-wide community.

Our schedule is as follows:

August 27 - 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch
September - Labor Day - no meeting
October 1 - 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch
November 10 - Holly Berry
December - Back Pack month Schedule to be announced
January 7 - 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch
February 4 - 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch
March 4 - 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch
April 1 - 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch
May 6 - 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

Beth Belote Circle

The Beth Belote Circle will begin the 2018-19 academic year with a meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 2, at Debbie Burgess's home, 1710 Audubon. The program will feature Ann Wells's presentation on an experience that has been significant to the development of her faith. We will also enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres---and each other's company. Please come be part of that if you can!

McKenzie-Moore Circle

The Dorothy McKenzie-Moore Circle will meet on September 10 at 1 p.m. in the session room at FPC. Our study this year will be "Twelve More Women of the Bible," which includes a book and an accompanying DVD that we will watch during our sessions. If you are interested in joining us for this study, please contact Cheryl Pittman by August 27.



Vacation Bible School 2018: It's a Wrap!

Submitted by Andrea French

Dear Members,

We survived another year of Vacation Bible School and we are happy to report that it was another huge success! Seeing firsthand the smiles of joy on the faces of many beautiful children was an experience I will not forget. Our sanctuary was transformed into a marvelous stage with lights, music, and colorful displays. Throughout the week, children watched videos, sang songs, and heard messages from the Pastors and Leaders from our four sister churches. The Session room became the "Bible Discovery" room, and the Choir room was converted into the "Imagination Station" room. Tropical treats were assembled by the children in the Fellowship Hall, and fun water games were played outside on our lawn. My son, Cabot, came home each evening with an activity book that focused on a different child-centered theme: when you feel lonely; when you worry; when you struggle; when you feel powerless; when you do wrong, Jesus rescues! I think those messages could be helpful for us adults, as well, myself included! Children also made the neatest crafts that went along with the theme for each night, and believe it or not, the snacks corresponded, too!

As Cabot's parent, I am so thankful that he was able to have this experience that grew his heart and strengthened his faith in God. It's touching to think so many people came together to make a difference in his life. For me, it drives home just how important Vacation Bible School is. If you've not been able to experience this moving outreach effort, I heartily encourage you to volunteer next year in any capacity that you can. Stop by just to witness it firsthand, for your heart will surely be touched.

We would like to thank our dedicated volunteers who helped with VBS this year. While every role (big and small) is important, we would especially like to recognize: Susan and Bill Stewart, who taught/assisted every night; Maribeth Crawford, who helped organize our volunteers and resources; Monte Fisher, who helped make sure our church looked great

throughout the week; our folks who helped create decorations; our folks who helped with set up/take down at our church; our kitchen volunteers who helped serve the Thursday night meal; and all of the other folks who signed up to bring meal and snack items. We wouldn't be able to have VBS without the dedication of our church members. Thank you for your gift of service! It's a blessing to see churches coming together for this special outreach.

"How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of men take refuge and put their trust under the shadow of Your wings." Psalm 36:7



Murray
Cooperative
Vacation Bible
School 2018

Shipwrecked:
Rescued by
Jesus!

The displayed photos are from Vacation Bible School, held at First Presbyterian Church July 16-20, 2018. Around 40 children attended each evening from 5:30-8:30 p.m.



Music Notes

Submitted by Kate Tombaugh

FPC Chancel Choir rehearsals will recommence on Wednesday, August 8, from 7-8 p.m. Singers, novice or veteran, from ages high school to 104+, are welcome to join us in our great fellowship of song, providing wonderfully uplifting and insightful music for our congregation and to the Lord every week at First Presbyterian Church. Time commitment is small with great rewards in return, and childcare is provided every Wednesday night and Sunday morning for those with younger children. If you know of anyone who has considered joining, please encourage them to try us out!

We are a welcoming and supportive group; we start every rehearsal learning about vocal and choral technique during group warmups, prepare for upcoming anthems, service music, and special events, and close each night by sharing our joys and concerns and speaking the Chorister's Prayer to close. Any questions may be directed to FPC's Music Director, Kate Tombaugh: (309) 830-6103 or kate@katetombaugh.com.

Seeking Support for our Choral Intern Program

Submitted by Kate Tombaugh

Dear friends and fellow music-lovers,

We're a few weeks away from resuming Chancel Choir, and we ask you to consider supporting our Choral Intern Program for another year.

This past year, our five Choral Interns (Emma Whitt, Jenny Rea, Chloe Frisby, Tanner Jones, and Nathan Arnold) helped lead FPC's special services of Hanging of the Greens, our Christmas cantata, Ash Wednesday, Healing and Anointing service, and Good Friday. They attended our weekly rehearsals as section leaders and joined us in worship on Sundays, all while maintaining their otherwise busy schedules.

It's been inspiring for me to witness first-hand their development as young adults and musicians, and I know our choir has enjoyed welcoming them into our family fabric. Most recently, Emma competed as a national Semi-Finalist at the Classical Singer Competition, Jenny traveled to study voice in Lucca, Italy, Chloe served as head counselor at the MSU Vocal Arts Camp, and Tanner music directed Playhouse in the Park's production "Next to Normal," in which Nathan portrayed the lead. These are fine and talented young students, and I appreciate that we can provide some financial support, music development and opportunities, and emotional and spiritual fortitude during their studies here in Murray.

Starting last January, a few years after the program's inception, the Choir Intern Fund became a separate line in FPC's budget, allowing more longevity for this worthy program. Our interns receive \$25 a week for their service, (\$10 Wed + \$15 Sun service), approximating to about \$500 a year per intern. In the

past, some donors have paid in one large sum, or have chosen to pay weekly or monthly; any method and amount is appreciated. As a past 3-time intern and now choir director, I am very passionate about this program and warmly welcome any questions you may have for me.

Our needs for the 2018-2019 season are as follows:

Total funding needed for this year: \$2,500.00

Currently in our budget: \$892.50

Amount still needed: \$1,607.50

Thanks for your time and consideration! -Kate Tombaugh



New Staff Update: Welcome to FPC, Mandy!

We would like to introduce you to our new Nursery employee, Mandy Brogan. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet Mandy yet on a Sunday, please be sure to stop by and give her a warm FPC welcome! In the mean time, Mandy is happy to tell you about herself:

"My name is Mandy Brogan. I married my high school sweetheart 21 years ago and we have been blessed with two beautiful children. Coral is 14 and Aedan is 10. We moved to Murray 2 years ago from Denver, CO, but I was born and raised in a small farm community in Iowa. Murray just feels like home for us. After 11 years of working part time from home in order to raise our children, I headed back to college this past year. I am currently studying full time at MSU in order to become a Middle School Social Studies or Science teacher. In my spare time, which is rare, I love to crochet and just spend time with friends and family. I have been in children's ministry as far back as I can remember. I have worked with every age group and my husband and I were youth pastors for 3 years back in Iowa."

Rally Day

August 19, 2018

Join us as we kick off a new Church Academic Year!

9:30 a.m. Breakfast Potluck

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday School for All Ages Begins at

9:30 a.m. on August 26



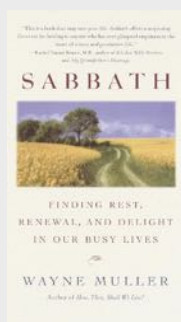
Friends-in-Faith Expanded Program

Submitted by Roger Weis

For the past 11 years First Presbyterian Church has offered a monthly interdenominational communion at Hickory Woods Assisted Living Facility. We are now expanding that program and offering communion, devotion and prayer to any of our church members who are not able to attend church; whether at home, in the hospital, assisted living or nursing home...we are excited to be able to offer this blessing to any member, relative or friend of a church member. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at (270) 753-6460, so Andrea can convey the information to our Friends-in-Faith committee. We look forward to hearing from you anytime!

Head & Heart Update

Submitted by Ken Wolf



In a change of pace (and topic), the Head and Heart book discussion group will meet on Thursday, August 16 to discuss the first 119 pages of Wayne Muller's Sabbath: Finding, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives (1999). Oldie but goodie! Come to the Session room at 7 p.m.



Need Line Referrals

Submitted by Andrea French

Our church works in collaboration with other churches and non-profit organizations in the Murray community to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families who are experiencing a financial crisis. These folks are referred to us by Need Line, an organization we greatly depend on to help those in need. Some weeks we receive no referrals, yet other weeks we have received as many as six or more. Thanks to the generosity of

our loving congregation, we've been able to provide the following assistance:

January:	\$579.64	11 units of service
February	\$1,104.62	16 units of service
March	\$875	17 units of service
April	\$826.1	16 units of service
May	\$1,255.09	21 units of service
June	\$1072.52	14 units of service
July	\$1233.66	15 units of service



Each package of Café Justo contains the name of the farmer who grew the beans.

Transcending Barriers Café Justo Offers an Entrée to Mission Partnership and Hope

Submitted by Rosemary Mitchell

Coffee is a major agricultural product of Mexico, the beverage of choice among millions of people in the U.S., and a link in a mission partnership that transforms people in both countries.

Café Justo (Just Coffee) is produced by a fair-trade cooperative that is affiliated with Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian border ministry.

Frontera de Cristo is located in the neighboring cities of Agua Prieta, Mexico, and Douglas, Arizona, and is governed by a board composed of an equal number of people from the U.S. and Mexico.

Café Justo begins in southern Mexico, where coffee growers receive a fair price for their beans. The beans are shipped to Agua Prieta, where the workers who roast, grind and package the coffee for shipment are paid a living wage and receive health care, retirement and other benefits. Among the most loyal customers are U.S. Presbyterians who support the goals of fair trade and enjoy the rich taste of Café Justo.

Each bag of Café Justo displays the name of the farmer who grew the beans, and Presbyterians across the U.S. begin their day with Café Justo and say a prayer for the farmer who grew their coffee. Many buy Café Justo through their congregations as part of the Presbyterian Hunger Program's fair-trade coffee project.

Mission co-worker Mark Adams has been involved with Café Justo since its beginning in 2002. Mark is Frontera de Cristo's U.S. coordinator.

Mark and his wife, Miriam Maldonado Escobar, who is also a mission co-worker, have focused much of their energy on addressing the root causes of migration. One of those causes is poverty, and Café Justo's model helps people avoid poverty. In addition to receiving a fair price for their beans, the farmers own the roastery and compensate the workers justly. Farmers and roastery employees can afford to remain in Mexico with their families rather than endure a risky trip to the U.S. to find a job.

Frontera de Cristo, in partnership with Café Justo and CRREDA, a drug rehabilitation ministry, recently opened Café Justo y Mas, a coffeehouse in Agua Prieta. It has created additional jobs, but its primary purpose is to give the city's young people a safe place to enjoy themselves. In addition to coffee and pastries, Café Justo offers movies, games and other opportunities for fun and enrichment. Young people also can take advantage of its drug education and prevention services. Having a place of belonging makes them less vulnerable to entreaties from the drug cartels, which are a powerful force in Agua Prieta.

Beyond his ministry at the border, Mark advocates for the reform of our country's immigration laws. He testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security in 2016, supporting legislation that allows for the safe and orderly flow of people across borders. He works alongside the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness in backing this stance, which reflects the position of our church's General Assembly on immigration.

In all its pursuits, Frontera de Cristo is about bringing people together across barriers of language, social class, ethnicity and nationality. When U.S. Presbyterians visit Frontera de Cristo

on mission trips, the emphasis is on transcending these barriers through relationship building, joint worship and working together in ongoing community ministries.

“Christ has already broken down the barriers,” Mark says. “It is up to us to live into that reality.”

Rosemary Mitchell is senior director of Mission Engagement and Support for the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Contact her at rosemary.mitchell@pcusa.org. Support mission co-workers: pcusa.org/donate/E132192

Reprinted with permission from Mission Crossroads, Summer 2018, a publication of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Café Justo is available in the narthex in regular and dark roast, whole bean and ground. Fresh and delicious one-pound bags of coffee are just \$11. Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Women.



Financial Report

Submitted by George Kippbut

Thank you to all who have kept up with their pledges and offerings during the summer months.

2018 General Fund Income as of July 25 - \$104,455

2018 General Fund Expenses as of July 25 - \$108,139

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

Mark 8:35



Soup for the Soul

Submitted by Ann Stanley

Our next time to serve at Soup for the Soul is Monday, September 17. We have an early shift that starts at 2:15 p.m. and runs to 4:30 p.m. This shift does the cooking and begins serving the first rush. The second shift begins at 4:30 p.m. and runs until 6:30 p.m. They finish up serving and do the clean-up. If you would like to help with this important ministry, please call or text me at (270) 293-7049. You might feel tired when you leave, but fulfilled at the same time!



[Follow MOTA on Facebook!](#)

Submitted by Lisa Polivick

Dear Friends of First Presbyterian,

As we begin the new school year, I have important updates about the Guatemala mission trip, the new MOTA intern, our contemporary praise and worship music, and our fall advertising campaign.

As you know, we had to postpone the mission trip in June because of the volcanic eruption of Fuego in Guatemala. The Guatemalan government agency for natural disasters (GANC) asked people specifically not to travel to Chimaltenango, the city in which we were to be housed. We are planning to do the same work on a mission trip before April 2019 so that we can use the money we have already paid for plane tickets. We were so disappointed to postpone our visit since we already had so many great things purchased for the children, but we are looking forward to the work we will do when we are able to travel.

MOTA students and I are gearing up for a new school year. The MOTA student intern is Shelby Grimm, a sophomore at Murray State. I introduced her to the congregation in the April newsletter, but I thought you might need me to refresh your memory about her. A member of the Honors College, she is majoring in Communications Disorders, and she hopes to work as a speech-language pathologist in a children's hospital setting.

Shelby is an active member of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association and volunteers at the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Murray State. In addition, she dances with the MSU Dance Company. She loves music, theater, reading, writing, and making crafts. Shelby has such a wonderfully sweet spirit, and I am so excited to work with her over the coming year.

Ascher Taylor-Schroeder and Tesla Like will be joining us again this school year to lead a time of praise and worship or silent meditation at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. The other mainline denominations in the city of Murray have added contemporary praise and worship music to their Sunday Services to appeal to young adults in our area. In fact, both First Baptist and First Methodist have added second services on Sunday mornings that are contemporary services led by praise and worship teams.

Church growth experts say that the most important tool to attract new members is music. First Methodist gained approximately two hundred members when their new service began. In addition to their morning service, First Baptist also has over one hundred young adults meeting every Sunday night for contemporary praise and worship. While we are not competing against these denominations, their growth does indicate that this style of music speaks to young people and encourages them in their faith.

Our choir has amazing talent which blesses us every week and brings in so many wonderful families. None of us want to change anything about our choir program, so the session voted to add some contemporary praise music before our regular service begins. Ascher, who is leading our praise and worship time, is a highly talented guitarist. He is a music major who feels called to full-time music ministry. Tesla attends two worship services every Sunday just to be with us.

We are encouraging members of our congregation to help get this ministry off the ground by supporting it with their presence. Those in the sanctuary are asked to greet one another but forego conversations, allowing people this time to come in from the world and focus their hearts and minds upon God.

Our advertising campaign to kick off the semester focuses upon four goals of the MOTA ministry: developing Christian leadership skills in our members; fostering life-long friendships; providing spiritual guidance; and embracing young people as part of our church family. Remember, we are supporting the church of the future when we minister to these young adults. Please pray for us as we begin this new season of ministry.

Prayerfully yours,

Lisa Polivick

MOTA Calendar

MSU Great Beginnings

Saturday, August 11—All dorms are open for new students to move in. MOTA students will give away free drinks and assist with moving in.

7-9 p.m.—United Campus Ministries Lawn Party on Hart Hall—All MOTA members are asked to attend this gathering to meet new students.

Sunday, August 12—8:30-9 a.m. Nondenominational Worship Service on Hart Hall Lawn MOTA students asked to attend.

All resident halls open for upperclassmen to move in. MOTA students will give away free drinks and help with moving in.

Tuesday, August 14—First day of classes

Thursday, August 16—Welcome back ice cream social at the MOTA House

Thursday, August 23—Hawaiian Luau at the MOTA House

Fall retreat tentatively set for September 7 and 8.



Laundry Love

Submitted by Shirley Latto

Laundry Love is a community-based, volunteer program that provides free laundry services to families in Calloway County who are in need of help.

On the evenings that we are hosting Laundry Love at Boones's Laundry in Murray, we need to supply at least six volunteers to be present and ready to help operate the machines. We provide the detergent and dryer sheets, if needed. Usually, everyone prefers to load their own laundry, but some people may not be able to reach the detergent port. We generally assist folks in finding a machine, load it with coins, help fill the detergent port if needed, and help find and operate the dryers, as well.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the following dates:

5-7:30 p.m. August 27 – First Presbyterian

5-7:30 p.m. November 26 – First Presbyterian

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shirley Latto at lattoshirley@gmail.com, or (270) 873-9864.

Youth Group

Serving First Presbyterian Church and First Christian Church Youth Grades 6-12

August Schedule:

August 1: Youth Group Dinner at Pagliai's

August 8: 5:30 p.m. Youth Group at First Presbyterian Church

August 15: 5:30 Youth Group at First Christian Church

August 22: 5:30 Youth Group at First Christian Church

August 29: 5:30 Youth Group at First Presbyterian Church

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

FPC Hymn Sing July 14, 2018

Photos submitted by Laynie Mitchell and Kate Tombaugh



Members of First Presbyterian Church enjoyed visits and sang hymns at the homes of a few members of our Church Family on Saturday, July 14, 2018. Pictured from left to right first photo: Cindy Barnett, Kate Tombaugh, Grace Weimer, Steven Weimer, Margaret Boone, Dan Moore. Second photo: Grace Weimer, Laynie Mitchell, Sal Matarazzo, Steven Weimer, Kate Tombaugh, Dan Moore.

Need Line Referrals

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer

As you might have noticed from Andrea's monthly Need Line report, thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we have been able to provide a plentiful amount of assistance for folks who are referred to us from Need Line. We want you to feel confident that we in the office are working diligently to be good stewards of the resources that have been entrusted to us through the Pastor's Discretionary fund. For the sake of complete transparency, I want to take this opportunity to talk about our vetting process for the assistance we do provide. As we've seen, Andrea works hard to maintain accurate and complete records in the office and reports disbursements in the monthly newsletter so that you can stay informed.

We require everyone who receives assistance from us to bring us a referral from one of three community agencies: Need Line, West Kentucky Allied, or the School Resource Center from either school system. The purpose of going through these agencies is that they are the ones who are able to confirm residency, income, and/or need. Thankfully, this vetting process minimizes the opportunity for folks to take advantage of the system. These referring agencies also maintain records, as do we, of how often people seek and receive assistance.

I want you to know there are families that we often help more than once. Our general guideline at First Presbyterian is that we will help the same family three times over a twelve month period. We do, however, reserve the right to make an exception to this guideline if I, in

my own discretion, deem it appropriate. The amount of help we give to each individual/family unit varies from \$25-\$100, but sometimes more in extreme circumstances. We then send a monthly report to Need Line so that they know how much folks have received from us, for their record keeping.

Most of the folks we offer assistance to are in the category of “the working poor.” They have jobs but they do not earn a living wage. This means that they have low-paying and often just part-time employment. Most of their employers only offer part-time positions so that they do not have to provide benefits. I recently posted an article on Facebook that calculated the amount of an hourly wage required in each state in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment. For Kentucky, this averaged to be \$14.40 per hour. Kentucky’s minimum wage happens to be \$7.25 and it matches the federal standard. You might think it wouldn’t cost as much to live in Murray, comparable to somewhere like Louisville, but you must keep in mind that we are a university town and rent is generally higher here than it is in non-college towns of comparable size.

Thank you for your gracious generosity to the pastor’s discretionary fund. You have been extending the compassion and love of Christ to many families. The folks who receive assistance from us always express their deepest gratitude. Often times they are ashamed to ask for assistance, and feel the need to explain their circumstances. Andrea reminds them that our office is a “judgment-free zone,” and everyone is treated with the utmost respect. And for most individuals, the relief they feel when they realize they are about to receive help truly brings them to tears.

Shalom, Pastor Renee

August Birthdays

Joelle French, August 6
Susan Stewart, August 8
Don Fleming, August 11
Janine Kruger, August 13
Vicki Jo Valentine, August 18
Kathryn Jenkins, August 19
Robert Valentine, August 26

August Anniversaries

Dawn & Don Gaskin, August 1
Ethelyn & Gordon Loberger, August 1
Marion & Pete O'Rourke, August 6
Bonnie & Sam McNeely, August 17
Charlotte & John Gregory, August 21
Susie & Robert Sams, August 26



Thank You...

I am grateful for your generous prayers and kind concern while my seven-year-old great-nephew Colin was hospitalized with asthma and a respiratory infection. His two weeks in pediatric intensive care were frightening but ultimately reassuring. Colin is recovering at home now, where he and his mother and his grandmother each received cards that Marion O'Rourke sent on behalf of our congregation. But before he left Barnes, Colin borrowed a marker to leave this message on the whiteboard in his room: "Thank you so much for taking so much care of me." Those are my sentiments exactly! ---**Marcie Johnson**

Dear First Presbyterian Church: Thank you for saying "yes" and serving at this year's VBS! It was an awesome week and it was all thanks to your hard work! You all make a great team! It is wonderful how a diverse group of people from different churches can get together and serve to reach out to the children and their families in our community! Thank you for the sacrifice of your time and resources to be the hands of our Savior in serving others. Thanks and Blessings! ---**Susan Drake, Murray VBS COOP Lead Volunteer**



Prayer Concerns

"Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Jeremiah 29:12

Church Members and Regular Attendees

Deanna Wolf	Recovery from most recent surgery
Harry Conley	Recovery from knee surgery
Jerry Stanley	Rehab. at Tristar Southern Hills
Family of Barbara Simons	
Pat Bolton	5 bulging back discs
Roger Weis	Recovery from knee surgery
Margaret Boone	Medical issues
Bill Schell	Home
Dan Moore	Passing of wife, Rosemary
Lanette Thurman	Passing of husband, Bill
Eva Hopkins	Strength and recovery
Sue Cochran	Neuropathy
Warren Thomas	Home
Paul Shaw	Declining health due to Parkinson's Disease
Mary Lynn Christensen	Alzheimer's, at Brookdale
Sal Matarazzo	Congestive heart failure
Jo Martin	Heart problems

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Courtney Fall and baby	Safe delivery & healthy baby
Luke Crawford and family	Passing of his great aunt
Anne Williams (Cindy Barnett's mother)	Recovery from surgery
Baby Lily and mother, Dannie (friends of the Howes)	Premature birth
Lynn McDonald (Beth Minor's mother)	Stage 3 breast cancer
Vicki Jo Valentine (Bob Valentine's wife)	Recovery from surgery
Jessica (Kathy Burnett's daughter)	Recovery from c-section, premature delivery

Harlan Silas (Karen Burnett's grandson)	Born prematurely, NICU
Kelly Long (Rocky and Terry's son)	Recovery
Hubert Stroud (Kathy Stroud's father in law)	Hospice care
J.C. Hobbs & family (Marcie Hobbs' son)	Divorce
Rita Hendon (George Cochran's aunt)	Cancer recurrence
Janie Green (Andrew's wife)	Blindness due to swollen optic nerve
Glen Davis (Andrea Howe's father)	Health issues
Mason	Injured student from Marshall County
Parkland Florida and Marshall County	Victims and Families
Jeff Shipley (Pastor Renee's friend)	Cancer
Sonia Fall (Pastor Renee's family)	Possible lung transplants
Justine Ostlund	Recovery from stroke
Jana Maxlow (Dave Howe's friend)	Breast Cancer
Julie Stone (Andrea French's aunt)	Breast Cancer
Sherry (Sue Cochran's sister)	Health issues and loss of son, Troy
Terri Prince	Lung cancer and chemo
Family of Sally Wright (Todd's mother)	
Tabitha and Junior	Pittman's family
Sandy Cunningham	Pastor Renee's mother, severe macular degeneration