

THE VOICE

of **First Presbyterian Church**
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November 2016

*To Know Him and to Make
Him Known*

Pastor's Corner

I love this time of year – colored leaves, cooler days, and all the delicious foods of fall. As October turns to November, our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving, and hopefully our hearts turn to gratitude. Although Thanksgiving is considered a secular holiday by many, for Christians it is deeply connected to the roots of our faith. The Scriptures charge us, “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of the God in Christ Jesus for you.” (I Thessalonians 5:18) For Christians, gratitude to God is a way of life.

It is often easy for us to think of many reasons to give thanks. We are thankful for our loved ones, for the roofs over our heads, for food on our table. Indeed, our thanksgiving often flows from our blessings. “Praise God from whom all blessings flow!” But blessings are only one reason to give thanks.

As we come to know the character of our God, we mature into believers who give thanks even when we are not “feeling” blessed. We give thanks because God is good, all the time. We give thanks because we know God loves us unconditionally, even when we don’t deserve it, or aren’t feeling particularly loveable. We give thanks because even when life is challenging, we know that God promises to work everything for good for those who love him. We give thanks because the Lord has triumphed over our enemies, and because we find shelter and strength and protection in the Lord. We give thanks because God is worthy of our praise!

This November, let us allow thanksgiving to become more than a holiday – let us allow it to become a lifestyle. Let us wake up with praises on our lips, and go to bed with thanksgiving in our hearts. Let us enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Let us practice Thanksgiving each and every day by taking time to tell God how much we love him, and to thank Him for being such a good, kind and loving Father. May our hearts overflow with Thanksgiving this month and always!

In Christ,
Pastor Jenna

November WORSHIP

November 6- *All Saints Day-25th Sunday after Pentecost-Numbers 11:16-17, Hebrews 12: 1-3- “Taking our Place in the History of the Church”*

November 13- *26th Sunday after Pentecost-Malachi 3:8-10, John 14; 15, 21- “Are We Really Robbing God?”*

November 20-DEDICATION SUNDAY-1 *Chronicles 29:10-16, Colossians 3:15-20- “Cultivating Gratitude”*

November 27- *1st Sunday of Advent- Isaiah 2: 1-5, Romans 13:11-14- “Wake Up and Get Dressed!”*

“Oh When the Saints Go Marchin’ In”

Following worship on All Saints’ Day (**Nov.6**), our congregation will again join worshippers from Broadway Methodist in the parking lot of First National Bank across Jefferson St. and celebrate the “march” of the saints.

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir (Adults) will rehearse at **7:00pm, on Wednesday nights**. We welcome new voices to come and join the fun and share the privilege of leading worship each week. All we need are sopranos, altos, tenors, basses, in-betweens, “I don’t know but I love to sing” folks. Come and give it a try...great music, great friends, great times!



FELLOWSHIP CLASS

The Fellowship Hall Sunday School Class will continue in our journey with the Sovereignty of God in November. Our unit title is “The Alpha and Omega” and will be taken from selected passages of the book of Revelation. Robert Pierce has put together an outstanding series beginning in Isaiah then traveling through Hebrews and now culminating in Revelation. Come get a donut and coffee then join us in our study. Our class also has an active prayer list and if you want to be included in our weekly updates please notify Robert Worden at robdonworden@comcast.net.

Lifelong Learning Class

The **Lifelong Learning Sunday School Class** will start its study entitled: “**The Old Testament**” in November. The lecturer is Professor Amy-Jill Levine from Vanderbilt University. The class meets in Memorial Hall.

Interspersed with these lectures will be guests who will lead discussions on various subjects.

October 30	Lecture 1	In the Beginning
Nov 6	Lecture 2	Adam and Eve
Nov 13	Ellen Walsh	with 4 Rivers Behavioral Health will discuss issues regarding teen suicide
Nov 20	Lecture 3	Murder, Flood, Dispersion
Nov 27	Lecture 4	Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar
Dec 4	Lecture 5	Isaac
Dec 11	Lee Emmons	will lead a discussion concerning child abuse

NEEDLE ARTS MINISTRY

Needle Arts Ministry will meet Thursday, November 17th at 4:00 at Leigh Smith's home on 12 Westvale.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

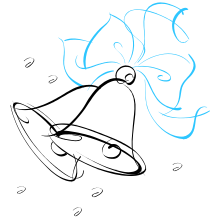
1	Renie Barger	12	Jolly Freeman
	Hannah Hammonds		Jim Long
2	Carly Framptom	13	Claire Gould Prechter
	Courtney Diaz	16	Sarah Craft
4	Ricky Binkley		Jimmie Hale
5	Madalynn Dochniak		Rob Robertson
	Bill Lentz, Jr.	18	Mary Hoy
	Donna Worden	24	Jean Meredith
6	Leigh Smith	26	John Gust
9	Marie Baggett	28	Emily Krall
10	Robin Kelly	29	Dottie Toy*
11	Richard Wilson		
	Gale Wright		

***Member of the 90+ Club**

November Anniversary Celebrations

9	Gena & Kyle Miller
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16	Jim & Sandra Cargill
17	Amy & Justin Shurley
19	Margie & Bruce Pope
29	Rita & Greg McKeel



Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings

Eve Circle The Eve circle will meet Tuesday, **November 1st**.

Lydia-Ruth Circles will meet together on Monday, **November 7th** at 12:30 in Memorial Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gould who is the circle leader this year.

The new Circle that sometimes meets at Noontime will next meet at 6:30 pm on November 11th. Location TBD

The Long View of Advent

Advent is about preparing not only for Christmas but also for Jesus' return. According to Scripture, that won't be the calm, silent scene described in Christmas carols.

In 1928, Dietrich Bonhoeffer preached: "It is very remarkable that we face the thought that God is coming so calmly, whereas previously peoples trembled at the day of God We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us. We ... [forget] the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us."

God is love; we'll be in good hands at the end of time. But during Advent, let us also be in awe of God. Embrace a reverent fear of the Lord that reminds you how profound it is that God chooses again and again to draw near and lay claim to you.

A Word of Thanks

I am overwhelmed and humbled by your generous gift last Sunday. Thank you. I am thankful also for the many kindnesses you have shown over the past year since my mother's cancer diagnosis. This church family has been my shoulder to lean on, my listening ear, and my reassuring support in so many ways. It is a privilege to be on this spiritual journey with you; it feels as though we draw closer to God each time we help to bear each other's burdens and share in each other's joys. Thank you dear friends, and thanks be to God.

Whitni

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for November 2016

Nov	Children's Church		ACOLYTES	NURSERY
6	NO CHILDREN'S	CHURCH	Henry Stratemeyer	Courtney Diaz
13	Ralph Young	David Wolfrom	Abby Brown	April Wolfrom
20	Lee Emmons	Shelby Durham	Kate LeBuhn	Lisa McClintock

27	NO CHILDREN'S	CHURCH	Owen Cody	Julie Tennyson

USHERS for November 2016

NOV				
6	Scott Marcum	Julie Tennyson	Tim Kaltenbach	Margaret Kaltenbach
13	Matt Dochniak	John Johnson	J.T. Toy	Mark Cook
20	Charles Lackey	Andy Wood	Joe Roetteis	Mark Watkins
27	Ben Stewart	Grace Stewart	Jon Hoy	Mary Hoy

The Men's Prayer Breakfasts will continue every first Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted. The next prayer breakfast will be Wednesday morning, November 2nd at 6:30 a.m. at Bob Evans.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON & DEDICATION SUNDAY

Stewardship season is upon us! Please keep an eye out for our church stewardship letter and a pledge card in the mail during the first week of November. This year we will be bringing forward our pledges, tithes and offerings to the Lord on Sunday November 20th during the worship service. Please plan to bring your pledge card to church that Sunday. If you will not be in worship that day, please return it to the church office.

SESSION MEETING

The Session meeting will be November 20th following worship service.

The Presbytery meeting will be on November 8 at Mt. Zion.

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

Warming Center



Our church has been asked to assist again this year at the Warming Center. People have been hired to supervise the overnight shift, so only the evening and early morning shifts will need staffing. We have not yet taken a specific week or days. More information will be announced this month.

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Please join us on November 16th as we enjoy our annual Thanksgiving Family Night Supper. The church will provide the turkey; please bring sides and desserts to compliment this festive holiday meal. After dinner, we will hear from missionary Reverend Sharon Junn about her upcoming mission work in China. (Sharon is a close friend of Pastor Jenna's and she spoke at her Installation



Service). A love offering will be taken for Sharon's ministry at the end of the evening. *A small donation of \$2.50 for each person over 5 years old, with a \$10 maximum per family, would be greatly appreciated, but not required. This money helps to defray the cost of paper plates, food, beverages, etc. provided by the church.*

CHRISMON TREE DECORATING- HELP WANTED!

In order for the Chrismon Tree to be ready for the First Sunday of Advent on November 27, we will need unpackers, fluffers, sorters, installers, climbers, lighters, ornament hangers and opinion offerers. SO!!!! We'll have a **"Trim the Tree Party" at 2:00 pm on Sunday, November 20th.** Please plan to come join the party and share the work. With lots of help, it will not take long to do. And with lots of help, it will make the season joyful. Thanks in advance for your tremendous help in this critical element of our Advent/Christmas Worship experience.

ADVENT WALK

This year's Advent Walk will be from **4:00-6:00 pm Sunday, 27th.** Please plan to come and join our downtown neighbors and welcome folks from "east and west and north and south" as they come and share this anticipatory time of worship. Please note that there will be a time of fellowship for all "travelers" at the end of the Walk. Our church will be hosting the youth gathering/pizza party immediately following the Advent Walk at Grace Episcopal Church. All youth are encouraged to attend this ecumenical mixer for fun with youth from the other downtown churches.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS!

Wonderful Wednesdays are midweek occasions when 3-yr-olds through 5th graders can gather for a time of fellowship, learning, crafts, play and music for personal and congregational enrichment. Wonderful Wednesdays are well under way with 20+ children learning about the Bible and singing God's praise. This semester's emphasis is on prayer.

Our kids are learning the different types of prayer and different ways to pray. Be sure to check out the various prayer stations located in the Garden Room.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY SNACK SCHEDULE

- November 2 Martens/ Shurley
- November 16 Wolfrom (Family Night Supper)
- November 23 NO WW/ Thanksgiving Break
- November 30 Chris Krueger

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

October was a busy month for the youth group, and included serving lunch at the community kitchen, participating in the church-wide softball game, and enjoying an evening of fun in the corn maze and pumpkin patch. November activities will include the annual presbytery-wide youth retreat at Camp Loucon and the Ecumenical youth gathering following the Advent Walk.

4:30 – Covenant Choir

5:30 – 7:00 – Supper and Youth Fellowship

DATE	ACTIVITY	CHOIR	DINNER FAMILY
Nov. 6	CAMP LOUCON!	Meeting	
Nov. 13	Half-Truths Lesson 3	Meeting	Kelly
Nov. 20	Decorate Chrismon Tree	Meeting	LeBuhn
Nov. 27	ADVENT WALK	N O Y O U T H C H O I R	Youth Gathering, Grace Episcopal 6pm

Fall Youth Retreat: Camp Loucon

Youth in 6th -12th grades are invited to attend the Presbytery-wide youth retreat at Camp Loucon, **November 4-6**. Camp Loucon is a beloved youth tradition where kids from churches all over our presbytery gather for a weekend of spiritual-themed fun and games. This year's theme is, "I Want to Tell the Story." The magic of Camp Loucon happens when kids and leaders from different churches gather and share their various gifts and love of God. Make plans to join in on the fun at Camp Loucon this fall!



BOOK CLUB

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi (Author), Abraham Verghese (Foreward) is the book club's selection for November. "At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live." We will meet on Nov. 21, 1:30 pm at Suzanne Underwood's, 224 Minerva Place.

Community Kitchen

Four teams continue to serve lunch once a month to the hungry in Paducah at BUMC. We also pick up bread at Kirchoff's on the first Saturday of each month for the kitchen. The Second Floor View class will serve on November 13 and Team 2 (McNeilly's) on December 11. Please volunteer to help in this important mission.

NOVEMBER PANTRY ITEM: Canned Fruit

Members in the News!

- Congratulations to Emily Hahn, named to the 2016 2nd District All District Volleyball Team. Emily is a Senior at Paducah Tilghman.
- Congratulations to Claire Kelly for achieving the distinction of National Merit Scholar.
- Britton Shurley received an Emerging Artist Award from the Kentucky Arts Council. He will be reading poems on Saturday, November 19th @7pm as part of the Rivertown Reading Series, held at Bricolage Art Collective. Britton will read along with Dave Harrity, a writer from Louisville.

Session Highlights from October 25, 2016

Reverend Jenna is working on committee assignments. She is looking at the Session members who will rotate off Session this year in order to thoughtfully fill the committees.

Reverend Jenna visited and took communion to the shut-in's. She will visit with them at least quarterly. She met with all committees. She met with the downtown pastors and with PCM for Thanksgiving preparation.

Karen Brown presented the September Financial report. The Trustees and the Finance committee will be meeting jointly to discuss investment & the endowment fund.

Matt Dochniak presented from the Program committee. The Annual Softball game is on October 23 and will take the place of FNS. There is a pavilion reserved for dinner after the game. The November Family Night Supper is on the 16th with Rev. Sharon Junn, missionary to China.

Julie Tennyson presented from Evangelism & Outreach. The committee met and discussed Mission trips and website.

Leigh Smith presented from Pastoral Care & Service.

Worship & Music will be meeting soon to organize Advent. Communion will be served on November 6 on All Saints Day as well as Christmas Eve.

John Johnson reported on Property. The committee met and discussed a potential Phase 2 on the boiler and HVAC Plan. No action has been taken from property at this time.

FPC
Income & Expenses
Jan. thru September 2016

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
<u>Income</u>	\$227,104.73	\$276,876.99	(\$49,772.26)
<u>Expenses</u>			
Benevolences	\$20,745.00	\$17,925.03	\$2,819.97
Church Staff	\$165,321.77	\$181,512.27	(\$16,190.50)
Administrative	\$28,203.42	\$28,975.42	\$772.00
Worship	\$3,360.37	\$4,387.50	(\$1,027.13)
Christian Ed/ Programs	\$5,332.75	\$4,958.59	\$374.16
Property	\$32,496.16	\$41,064.08	(\$8,567.92)
Pastoral Care	(\$478.00)	\$150.03	(\$628.03)
<u>Evang/ Outreach</u>	- 0 -	\$375.03	(\$375.03)
Programs	\$2,754.72	\$2,044.98	\$709.74
<u>Total Expense</u>	\$257,736.19	\$281,392.93	(\$23,656.74)
<u>Net Income/ (Loss)</u>	(\$30,631.46)	(\$4,515.94)	(\$26,115.52)

Comment: Revenues fall \$49,772.26 short of budget but \$42,150.62 of that amount represents pledges yet to be realized. Expenses fortunately were \$23,656.75 less than budget through September but will probably exceed budget once the bell tower and chancel work is paid for. Breakdown of income and expense categories into detail is available on monthly session reports. The reports can be reviewed or copied at the church office.

Property & Finance Update

Over the past two years, the Property Committee has been working to address many church building issues. The most critical of these repairs included replacing the 58-year old roof over the bell tower and the resulting plaster damage to the ceiling over the organ and choir. Ray Black & Son architect, Chris Jones, working with the Property Committee developed a repair plan and completed it last month. The total cost of the project was \$60,561 of which \$31,285 was covered by insurance claims.

In the office areas, the 30-year old carpet has been removed and new porcelain tile flooring installed. Supported by a lot of volunteer hours and some anonymous contributors and generous pricing from Broadway Interiors, the three office suites and closet have received new flooring, paint, and will soon get lighting. The cost of materials and labor for installation of the new tile floor was \$8,340 with one anonymous angel in the congregation donating \$5,000.

In the sanctuary, the existing sound system will be upgraded with wireless microphones and modern equipment. Funds for this project will come from the Avadesian Fund, which is a restricted fund that can be used for projects primarily benefiting seniors in the congregation. Phase 1 of this project will cost about \$10,000 and if needed, a Phase 2 project could cost another \$7,000.

While all this work was going on, the church completed the merger with Westminster. What has been so wonderful about this process is that the church and denomination decided to

share this blessing with the merged churches, the denomination, and the community. As approved by our Presbytery, the proceeds from the sale of the Westminster property less expenses (\$488,485) have been shared with the Presbytery of Western Kentucky (\$162,828), the merged churches (\$162,828), and our community (\$162,828).

The funds transferred to First Pres Paducah were placed in the Endowment Fund and will be subject to the guidelines established for the use of these funds.

The community portion of these blessings were shared with ten charitable organizations that our churches have supported over the years. The organizations receiving donations included the following:

Paducah Cooperative Ministry	\$48,848.51
Living Waters for the World	\$16,282.83
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$16,282.83
Community Kitchen	\$16,282.83
Hope Unlimited	\$16,282.83
River City Mission	\$16,282.83
Louisville Theological Seminary	\$8,141.42
Merryman House	\$8,141.42
Easter Seals Center	\$8,141.42
Family Services Society	<u>\$8,141.42</u>
Total	\$162,828.34

Proceeds transferred to the Presbytery were used to pay off a 1950's Westminster mortgage to the denomination (\$35,791). The balance of those funds will be used by the Presbytery to fund new church development in our presbytery.

Other property improvements that are in progress include replacement of the heating and air conditioning units in the Education Wing of the building. These units are over 30 years old and overdue for replacement. The total cost of these improvements has not been determined.

In another area, an upgrade for the church boiler has been identified and heating for Memorial Hall is under study. These are not immediate needs, but are being investigated for potential savings in natural gas usage.

Now that these areas have been addressed, the Property Committee will be considering additional projects. These include a new digital carillon and improving the lighting in the choir area similar to the upgraded LED lighting in the sanctuary. One of the other high priority projects is that the gutters of the church are pitted and need replacement. Some of the downspouts need to be cleaned and unclogged. The roof over the Education Wing is getting older and will need to be replaced. And then there's the Buddenbaum House that continues to require attention.

As work on these and other projects continues, there seems to be a renewed spirit and energy within the church. Members are engaging and coming out of their comfort zones to collaborate and volunteer more and more. Many are breaking down the down the barriers of "We've always done it this way" to discover the possibilities and the future of our church. As you see the progress unfolding, don't be afraid to join in this effort. Talk to a Session member, Pastor Jenna, or others about how you can participate in doing God's work within our own church and community.

Upcoming Events

November 2- 6:00 P.M.-Service for Prayer & Unity-BUMC

November 3-5:30 P.M.-Reflection/ Celebration/ Dedication Racial Unity Service @ Washington Street Baptist

November 4-6-Camp Loucon

November 5-2:00 P.M.-Memorial Service for Faye Adams @Mount Kenton

November 6-ALL SAINTS DAY-FALL BACK-Daylight Savings Time

**November 8-Presbytery Meeting @ Mount Zion
Election Day**

November 13-Ellen Walsh w/ 4 Rivers Beh. Health speaking on Teen Suicide in

Memorial Hall

2nd Floor Class Community Kitchen

November 16-5:45 P.M.-Family Night Supper

November 20-DEDICATION SUNDAY

2:00 P.M.-Chrismon Decorating in Sanctuary

6:00 P.M.-PCM Thanksgiving Service

November 23-No WW, NO Adult Choir

November 24-25-HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Office closed

November 27-Advent Walk 4-6 PM

Youth Activity & Pizza Party

