

Wesleyan Singers in Worship Feb 9th

On **Sunday, February 9th** during worship, we will have the pleasure of hearing the Kentucky Wesleyan Singers under the direction of Dennis Jewett. Their selections will include spirituals, anthems and early gospel songs.

You won't want to miss this special morning!



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

First Presbyterian Church
1328 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42301



“People of Grace”

A monthly newsletter for First Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2020

For many decades, the standard model of church involvement went like this: *Belong, Believe, Behave*. For generations, church membership was simply a given. Families grew up in churches where they would then raise their families. Denominational ties were like DNA, meaning you wouldn't think to visit a different brand of Christianity – not because anything was necessarily wrong with it, but because it wasn't *who you were*. You *belonged* in a certain place.

From “belong” came “belief,” where through confirmation and Sunday School, people came to faith. They recited catechisms and learned the Apostles' Creed and Lord's Prayer. And then, within Sunday School classrooms and sanctuaries, people learned how to “behave.” Meaning: they learned how to live out their faith. They learned what it meant in Matthew 25 to meet Christ in the hungry one and hurting one. At church, through membership and study, people learned how to live like Christians.

Those days are, simply put, gone. The times of people automatically belonging to or attending church have gone by the wayside. In many ways, churches have become like any other industry in society. People try out different places, weighing if they like different elements (preaching, music, activities) before choosing to put down roots. In many ways, it is refreshing, to see that the barriers that used to keep so many Christians apart have fallen by the wayside. And yet, sadly, it has also left a whole generation of people as almost perpetual nomads, not quite sure where they belong in church life.

So what is church to do? If the traditional model – *Belong, Believe, Behave* – no longer works, how do churches reach those nomads, those people who find themselves spiritually wandering?

Interestingly, an approach that has been effective, especially among millennials, is when churches flip the model. Rather than start with the assumption of membership, churches that start with opportunities for service and mission and advocacy – for that “*Behave*” part of the model – those are the churches that somehow hit a new stride. Through meaningful engagement and relationships (behavior), people find connection and community (belonging) and ultimately come to understand faith in a deeper, more meaningful way (belief).

Flip the model: *Behave, Belong, Believe*.

This past month, Jeff, our Director of Christian Education and Mission started a wonderful class on what it means to be a “neighborhood church.” I know that class has already sparked discussion around how we live out our faith. This month, the Multi-cultural Festival planning team is getting organized. The Women of Purpose group is gathering each month to learn how they can live out their faith. And our mission committee keeps going strong.

All of this is an effort to “behave” as people of faith — to serve Christ with our hands and feet, hearts and minds. Who in your life may be looking for a community that lives out what it believes. How can we connect with people in our community who may find themselves wandering spiritually? How can we help connect people to this place, where with God's help, they can live out their faith, find community, and come to a deeper walk of faith?

In Christ,

Christine

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Quote of the Month

Real prayer leads to involvement; real involvement leads to prayer; and the circle continues and deepens.

Katherine Marie Dyckman,

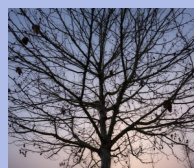


February Birthdays

- 2 Jeremy Corkran
- 2 Harper Lashbrook
- 2 Brian Snow
- 4 Patti Price
- 4 Cameron Thacker
- 5 Stephen Coy
- 5 Catherine Triplett
- 5 Jerry Nail
- 6 Killian Brailsford
- 8 Kailee Cowan
- 8 Vaughn Sanders
- 9 Julie Moore
- 10 LeGrand Hisle
- 12 Sally Black
- 13 Arlo Johnson
- 13 Esther Jansing
- 16 Marilyn Conley
- 16 CeCe Robinson
- 17 Patricia Smeathers
- 17 Margaret Douglas
- 18 John Lashbrook
- 18 Wil Smith
- 19 Betty Harris
- 24 Sherwood Kirk
- 27 Chuck Holcomb
- 27 Yimer Gonzolez
- 31 Kenny Hobson

Anniversaries

- 6 Kelly & Bill Duncan
- 6 Suzanne & Dale Guyer
- 12 Mary Dixon & Gene Baker
- 17 Nancy & Ray Kramer
- 21 Jane & Bob Smith



Session Highlights—January 2020

Session met on Monday January 13, 2020

- Session approved the 2020 budget
- Session members each agreed to be “Elder in Charge” on Sundays
- New Committees and Moderators were shared

Congregational Committee Highlights

Christian Education

- Youth Sunday School has re-summed taught by Stephanie Dube
- Youth will go to Manchester KY in June

Congregational Care—Deacons

- Cards and poinsettias have been taken to our elder members

Congregational Life

- Presbytery Meeting here Feb 11
- Selection Sunday Fellowship night Mar 15

Finance

- 2020 budget to be presented at Congregational Meeting

Mission

- Did not meet in December

Outreach & Evangelism

- Susan Swanson will coordinate greeters this year

Personnel & Planning

- Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies nearing completion

Property

- Did not meet in December

Worship & Music

- Attendance December: 1st -149; 8th - 200; 15th -149; 22nd-180; 29th -102; Christmas Eve - 260

Director of Christian Education & Mission

- Planned/led Wednesday Advent services
- Led Coffee Cup Theology and prayer group
- Preached on December 29th
- Visited St. Joseph Peace Mission
- Attended Owensboro Hunger Relief Steering Committee meeting
- Planning/leading Confirmation
- Delivered gift bags to area missions
- Planned/launched 6 week class

Pastor's Report

- 25 pastoral care meetings
- Planned/led memorial service for Evelyn Triplett
- Met with new Elder Marilyn Baker for training for session
- Wrote/coordinated Advent Service
- Planned all worship services including weekly Advent wreath lighting
- Planed/led Christmas Eve service
- Planned ordination and installation of church officers
- Attended committee meetings, led Coffee Cup Theology, Prayer group and Spiritual Formation
- Met with local ministers regarding Lenten services for this year

Weekly Prayer Meeting

As a community of love and care, we want to know how we can be in prayer for one another. Because of this, we meet on **Wednesdays at 2:00** in the Gardenside Parlor. Please email your prayer requests to Christine (christine@fpcobky.com).



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Every Sunday</i> 9:00 Spanish Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>						
<p>2 11:30 Worship Mtg 3:00 New Member Class</p>	<p>3 9:00 Staff Meeting Noon Congregational Life Mtg</p>	<p>4 4:30 Outreach Meeting 7:00 Living Our Faith Class</p>	<p>5 10:00 Book Group 1:00 Coffee Cup Theology 2:00 Prayer 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>6 4:00 Finance</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Boy Scout's Birthday</p>
<p>9 11:30 Christian Education Mtg 4:00 Spiritual Formation 4:15 Children's Choir 5:00 Youth Group 5:30 Tweens</p>	<p>10 9:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Session</p>	<p>11 Hosting Presbytery Meeting 5:30 SpiritLifters 7:15 Living Our Faith Class</p>	<p>12 10:00 Book Group 1:00 Coffee Cup Theology 2:00 Prayer 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 11:30 Extended Table 3:00 New Member Class 4:00 Confirmation Class 5:00 Board Game Fellowship Night</p>	<p>17 9:00 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>18 10:30 PrimeTimers</p>	<p>19 10:00 Book Group 1:00 Coffee Cup Theology 2:00 Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Women of Purpose</p>	<p>20 3:00 Personnel</p>	<p>21 6:00 Church Night Out</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 11:30 Mission Committee Mtg 4:00 Spiritual Formation 4:15 Children's Choir 5:00 Youth Group 5:30 Tweens</p>	<p>24 9:00 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>25 Mardi Gras 4:00 Property Meeting</p>	<p>26 10:00 Book Group 1:00 Coffee Cup Theology 2:00 Prayer 6:00 Ash Wed. Service 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>27 11:00 Pastor's Book Study</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 International Tongue Twister Day</p>

Sunday School Opportunities

Children's Sunday School (preschool - 5 class)

Begins at 9:30 in the first floor Kindergarten Room.



Youth Sunday School Class

Meets at 9:30 in the Youth Room

The Adult Sunday School Class

Meets at 9:30 in the Gardenside Parlor to look at various topics related to the church, Bible, current events and social topics.

The Men's Bible Class

Meets at 9:30 downstairs and uses *The Present Word* literature.

Spanish Language Worship Group

Meets at 9:00 in the Chapel. All are invited whether or not you speak/understand Spanish.

Fellowship Opportunities

SpiritLifters

A dinner group open to everyone!
Tuesday February 11th 5:30 pm
Shogun Bistro 2127 E. Parrish Ave.

RSVP: Jerry Price

kyprice@outlook.com, 502-553-9126

PrimeTimers

A group for "anyone who feels 50"

Tuesday February 18th 10:30 am

Program: TimeSavers—Grace's Umbrella
Lunch will follow (\$5.00)

RSVP: Charlotte Puckett

charlotte214050@yahoo.com, 270-926-2532

Church Night Out

A group for younger-ish folks.

Friday, February 21 6:00pm

Restaurant: Bar Louie

RSVP: Christine Coy Fohr

ccofohr@gmail.com, 270-570-3462

Extended Table

Your lunch plans for after church! Just come

Sunday, February 16, following worship

Restaurant: Briar Patch Restaurant

Planning Begins for Multicultural Festival and VBS Teams



The new year means new planning! The Multicultural Festival and VBS Teams are setting planning meetings for their 2020 events. If you have ideas or are interested in helping to plan either, contact Debbie McCoy for the Multicultural Festival and Stephanie Dube for Vacation Bible School. Watch PresbyNotes for upcoming dates and times.

Group Study Opportunities

Spiritual Formation

Meets on Sundays at 4:00 pm

Prayer and Discussion

Dates: Feb 9, 23

Reading: *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor

Wednesday Book Group

Meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Dates: Feb 5, 12, 19, 26

Reading: *A Pilgrimage to Eternity* by Timothy Egan

Coffee Cup Theology

Meets on Wednesday at 1:00 pm

Dates: Feb 5, 12, 19, 26

Discussion: Coming Lectionary

Living Our Faith Study Group

Meets on Tuesday for 6 weeks at 6:00 pm

Dates: Feb 4, 11.

Reading: *Neighborhood Church* by Krin Van Tatenhove

Pastor Book Group

Meets monthly on last Thursday at 11:00

Date: Feb 27

Reading: *Permission to Mourn* by Tom Zuba

Women of Purpose

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Date: February 19

*All study groups meet in the Gardenside Parlor

Coffee Cup Theology



One of the best quotes from the month of January came on a Wednesday afternoon when one of our beloved members answered her phone saying, "Now Linda, you know I'm in Bible Study!"

Coffee Cup Theology is fun group of people who gathers each week to learn and study together. We dig into the texts that will be used the coming Sunday in worship, learning about their background and context, and sharing how they connect with our lives. If you've been looking for a fun learning group to join, consider coming on **Wednesday afternoons at 1:00.**

Ash Wednesday & Plans for Lent

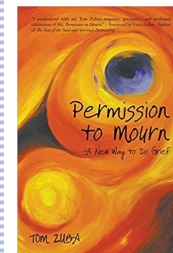


Once again, we will be joining with our ecumenical community to observe **Ash Wednesday on February 26th, both at noon at Settle Memorial and in the evening here at First Presbyterian Church.**

For the remainder of Lent, we will be trying something different. Rather than hosting weekly ecumenical services, we will be promoting the services and activities that many faith communities in our area are already doing for Lent. Many churches have special weekly services and activities that are open to people of all traditions, so rather than add "one more thing" to people's calendars, we are trying a more broad approach.

Be on the lookout for posters and information about services that you can attend. The final service — the **Great Easter Vigil** — will be held here at First Presbyterian on **April 11th**, where we will again have leadership from several of our ecumenical friends in town. We will let you know more plans as they develop!

Pastor's Study Group



With our congregation experiencing so much loss to death in the last year, it feels important that we take some time to tend to the grief we feel — both as individuals and as a community.

While we are hoping to organize some opportunities to learn about grief together, this month's Pastors Book Group will make a start by reading the book *Permission to Mourn* by Tom Zuba. Written in the form of poetry, Zuba explores the process of grief he learned upon the deaths of his wife and two children. The poetry format is very accessible, and a reader could take one poem each day for the month of February leading up to our group gathering.

The Pastors Book Group will meet on **Thursday, February 27th at 11:00 am.**

FPC to Host Presbytery



FPC will host the quarterly meeting of our Presbytery on **Tuesday, February 11th.** We are looking for volunteers to help in the areas listed below.

Greeters - We need some friendly faces to welcome people beginning at 9:00 am and direct them to the registration table and the sanctuary, where the meeting will take place.

Morning food – We are looking for someone to coordinate light morning refreshments. These might include fruit, muffins, and sweetbreads along with juices, coffee, tea and water.

Lunch will be served by the Congregational Life committee, but help is needed with clean up! As always, many hands make for quick work.

Contact Ellen Sweet or Debbie McCoy as soon as possible if you would like to volunteer.

Work to Begin on Expanding Columbarium



Since the columbarium's construction in 2015, nearly all of the spaces have been taken. The Columbarium Team, comprised of Marsha Nash, Pat Hale, Susan Hicks, Cindy Little, Deanna Wehrung and Larry Hale, have begun plans for expanding the columbarium in the narthex to the back wall adjacent to the current columbarium's location. If all goes according to plan, construction will begin sometime this spring. Following that, the columbarium team may look into options for installing some type of outdoor space for cremains.

If you have interest and would like to join in this work, please contact Marsha Nash. The team, which originally included Rick Nash and Otis Hicks, did extensive research into how churches throughout our region offer spaces to their members. It is a ministry our church offers which has meant a lot to many families.

January Highlights

Christmas Eve



SpiritLifters @ Longhorn



Extended Table @ Old Hickory



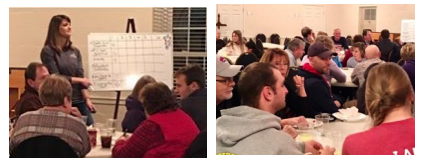
PrimeTimers—Everybody's Birthday



Annual Meeting



Trivia Night



New Bereavement Team



With the start of the new year came a shift in our Bereavement Meal team here at FPC.

For many years, Mark Malony, Nancy Kramer and Linda Kabalen have coordinated meals for families following funeral services. Their care and kindness toward grieving families over the years has been incredible, and our church has been immensely blessed by their ministry.

After so many years, they felt it might be time for a new set of leaders to take charge of this special ministry. In January, our new Bereavement Meal Team began, headed Pat Hale. She will be joined by Tom and Susan Furlong, Ellen Sweet, Marsha Nash, Susan Hicks, Debbie Bowley, Charlotte Puckett and Deanna Wehrung.

As always, many others contribute to the meals and offer their time to make them possible. If this outreach might be of interest to you, contact Pat Hale.

In Memoriam



Brian John Loucks
August 12, 1974 — December 29, 2019

New Members Class

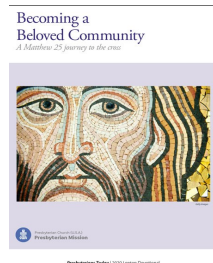


We will be offering a New Member class for anyone interested in considering membership here at First Presbyterian Church.

Classes will be held at **3:00 on February 2nd and 9th** and will cover information on both our church as well as what it means to be Presbyterian.

If you know of someone who has been attending the church and might be interested, please encourage them to attend.

Lenten Devotional



You are encouraged to join members of our church family in reflection on Matthew 25 and the creation of what Martin Luther King Jr. called The Beloved Community. Devotional books published by *Presbyterians Today* magazine will be available prior to Ash Wednesday. A suggested donation of \$3 will help offset the cost of the booklets.

Please email jeff@fpcobky.com or sign up using the sheet outside Jeff's office door if you would like the church to order a copy for you.

Living Our Faith Update



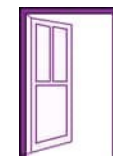
Participants in our Tuesday night Living Our Faith study have wrestled with the ways the church engages in mission.

We have focused on ways to love our neighbors in ways that foster relationships, listening, respect, and hope.

The book *Neighborhood Church: Transforming Your Church Into a Powerhouse for Mission* encourages us to look for the abundant gifts that are offered by communities in which we have only seen needs and stereotypes.

It's not too late to join us, and all are invited. We will meet in the Parlor at **7:00 on February 4th and 7:15 on February 11th.**

Women of Purpose Project



Oasis
SHELTER
EMPOWERMENT
RECOVERY

We had a great group gather for our first Women of Purpose meeting in January. Thanks to all who came out! After a time of devotion, Shannon Smith shared with us about the work of Oasis Shelter, where she served on the board for a number of years. Following her sharing, the group decided to collect over the next month for several items that Oasis mentioned they needed. Donations can be left in the bin outside of Christine's office.

Items include:

Shampoo	Deodorant
Body Wash	Razors
Journals	After school snacks
White twin sheets	

\$5/10 gift cards (McDonalds/Walmart, etc)
\$10 gas cards (Walmart/Meier)
Cash donations (bus passes, Greyhound fares, etc.)

Our next meeting will be on **February 19th at 7:00.** Meredith Bowers will share with us some of her work with refugees at Owensboro Community and Technical College.

Youth & Children's Corner

Youth Group We will have our regular meetings on February 9th and 23rd, with dinner at 5:00 following by youth group. Trivia Night was a huge success with almost \$400 being donated to us for our 2020 mission trips. Thank you so much for your support!

Youth Sunday School Youth Sunday School has begun with Stephanie Dube as our teacher. We would love to have some adults in our church help lead Sunday School. If this might interest you, contact Jeff Moles.

Confirmation Confirmands will meet this month on February 16th at 4:00pm (note different time). We will be discussing "What is the Church?"



Tweens will meet on February 9th and 23rd at 5:30. Dinner is available before at 5:00. This is for young people in grades 3-5.

Children's Choir will meet on February 9th and 23rd 4:15.

February Fellowship Night!



Join us on **February 16th at 5:00** for our Board Game Fellowship Night!

We will have a meal of homemade vegetable soup and grilled cheese sandwiches and play our favorite board games. There will be something for every age so circle the date and join us!

Time to Update Disaster Forms



Our church has a unique ministry of preparation for and response to disasters that may occur in our community. Our Disaster Preparedness Team maintains a database of information about all of our members of ways each of us might be able to help if called upon and contact information that can be used to be sure everyone is safe.

During the month of February we are making sure each household submits an updated disaster preparedness form. These forms are available near the sanctuary entrance and can be submitted to the office.