

Support Children with Summer Slide Kits!



Items to Donate:

- Crayons
- Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Colored Pencils
- Children's Books

Our Mission Committee is excited to introduce a new outreach for our congregation, and we hope that you will be eager to take part! Our church will be assembling "Summer Slide Kits" for 65 students from Southern Oaks Elementary, many of whom live in rural parts of Daviess County.

What is "summer slide?" Summer slide is the tendency for children's reading and math skills to decline over the summer months.

What is a "summer slide kit?" A summer slide kit is a backpack full of educational materials to help children maintain their learning over the summer. This includes study books (purchased by the mission committee), and other reading, writing, and math materials.

What can I contribute? See the list to the left. Boxes for donated items will be at the sanctuary and Clinton Place entrances.

What is the timeline? Donations will be accepted May 5 and 12. Our youth will assemble the kits during youth group on May 12th.

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



In this Issue

Page	
1	From Christine
1	Quote of the Month
2	Birthdays/Anniversaries
2	Session Highlights
2	Committee Highlights
3	April Highlights
3	In Memorium
4	Vacation Bible School
4	Scholarship Information
4	Pastor's Book Group
4	Worship and Wonder
4	Church Work Day
5	Disaster Preparedness
5	Rwanda Presentation
5	MultiCultural Fest
6	Sunday School
6	Join a Group!
6	Fellowship
6	Special Worship Service
7	May Calendar
8	Summer Slide Kits

Quote of the Month

*Beloved, you are a child of God;
Wonderfully made,
Dearly loved,
and precious in God's sight.*

Psalm 139



"People of Grace"

A monthly newsletter for First Presbyterian Church

May 2019



In case you missed it, on Easter morning twelve children were baptized during our worship service. Twelve! The children ranged in age from two to fourteen. There were four pairs of siblings. Five of them were cousins. They all knew one another, knew their church. They had watched as I baptized babies during children's time for years. And on Palm Sunday, by the end of the day, twelve of them had come to me and said, "I want to be baptized, too!" With how much loss our church has had this year, with how difficult this world sometimes feels, I just thought to myself — what better symbol of hope could we ask for than for twelve beloved children of our church to stand in a packed room and commit themselves to the loving God who has walked with them their whole life long.



Since ancient times the Easter service (or more specifically the Great Easter Vigil) has been the traditional celebration where the church both baptizes children and welcomes new members. The season of Lent serves as a time of preparation and prayer, culminating in the great service of Easter. With its emphasis on resurrection and new life, this service provides the perfect starting point for people to set out on their new life in Christ.

According to our Book of Order, baptism is "the sign and seal of our incorporation into Jesus Christ." (W-3.0402) In Paul's letter to the Romans, he writes that, through the gift of Baptism, we are "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." (6:11) Further, our theological tradition tells us that through the Sacrament of Baptism we, like Christ, die to sin and rise in newness of life, washed by the water of God's grace.

One of the more powerful words I heard from a parent regarding her child's baptism on Easter was this: The mother wanted to make sure that her child understood baptism and that she really wanted to make that commitment. When she asked her child if she was sure, her child responded: "I love God and I love my church. Of course I want to be baptized!" What encouraging, uplifting testimony from one of our young people.

As I mentioned on Easter morning, our church has experienced a great deal of loss already this year. Nine saints of our church have died in this year alone — Gus Paris, C. Waitman Taylor, Kay Hamby, Carol Norris, James Anderson, Betty Anne Taylor, Barbara Sharp, Helen (Robertson) Lovett and Maxine Price. As we have become accustomed to saying in these first months of 2019, these saints of our church completed their baptisms in death.

How powerful, for all of us, to be able to witness these young people now setting off together in their baptismal journey, coming to those very same waters that we have all known, and rejoicing in the grace that has known them and that will love them their whole life long.

Christine



May

Birthdays

- 2 Philip Cecil
- 3 Meredith Coomes
- 5 George Warren
- 6 Darla Barker
- 6 Kevin Smeathers
- 6 Claudia Johnson
- 8 Debra Thacker
- 9 Laura Morris
- 9 Gerald Price IV
- 10 Aileen Bravo-Lopez
- 11 Susan Furlong
- 12 Heather Gossett
- 13 Duke Brubaker
- 14 Melissa Shelton
- 14 Ella Grace Hicks
- 15 Larry Hale
- 15 Mark Malony
- 18 George Hall
- 18 Ray Kramer
- 19 Linda Kabalen
- 19 Lucy Smith
- 22 Katie Duncan
- 22 Tom Furlong
- 24 Zack West
- 25 Natalie Barber
- 27 Tori Gossett
- 28 Susan Taylor
- 28 Tricia Moore
- 30 Gary Barker
- 31 Zoey Morris
- 31 Julia Hayden
- 31 Gus Moore

Anniversaries

- 4 Bill & Sally Helwig
- 14 Kirk & Melissa Shelton
- 19 Craig & Shannon Smith
- 20 Bill & Nancy Harrison
- 20 John & Margaret West
- 27 John & Kim Lashbrook
- 28 Brent & Karen Nichols
- 30 Brandon & Kendall Black

April Session Highlights

- Received two new members into the church: Christy Stumpf, who has been singing with the choir since December, and Randy Shelby, who has been attending this spring
- Approved the baptism of 12 children for April 21st: Collin and Cash Jones, Miles and Gus Moore, Gia and Jay Hamilton, Josie Hagan, Ella Grace and Paxson Hicks, Chelsea Cowan, Anna Robinson and Lucy Smith
- Approved a presbytery request to collect items for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance emergency kits to be sent to the PDA distribution center in AR
- Approved request of PorchFest organizers to designate our church as a parking location for the festival, to be held on June 8th

Committee Highlights

Christian Education

- Tweens and Youth going well
- Summer VBS planning continues
- Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday this year

Congregational Care

- No activities in January

Congregational Life

- The committee planned a meal for the Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday on April 14 and Maundy Thursday on April 18

Finance

- Financial statement distributed
- Discussed plans for the coming year

Mission

- Service Worship completed and a success, with 129 members participating in 10 activities, for a total of 251 hours of service
- One Great Hour of Sharing to be received April 14 and 21st
- Discussion continues around Summer Slide kits

Outreach & Evangelism

- Hosted New Member Class in March, with six attendees
- Held a focus group with a marketing consultant to develop a visual identity for the church

Personnel

- Approved hiring of individual to mow the church lawn weekly

Property

- Looking into installing notice boards over welcome table, as well as infant changing tables in bathrooms

Worship & Music

- Attendance March: 3-110; 10-115; 17-134; 24-108; 31-100
- Planning underway for Holy Week, including decorating

Deacons

- Discussed developing better tools for sharing prayer requests/needs
- Continuing home visits/communion with members

Pastor's Report

- 35 member pastoral care meetings
- Participated in Ecumenical Lenten Services each week
- Hosted service for Healing and Wholeness on March 20
- Led New Member Classes
- Officiated the graveside service of Helen Lovett on March 27
- Officiated baptism of Ava Grace Williams on March 24
- Led Coffee Cup Theology, Prayer and Spiritual Formation groups



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday 9:00 Nursery Available 9:00 Spanish Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship			1 3:00 Coffee Cup 4:00 Prayer Grp 4:30 Deacons 6:30 Choir	3 4:00 Finance Committee	3	4 145th Kentucky Derby
5 11:30 Worship & Christian Ed. Mtgs 4:00 Spiritual Formation	6 Noon Congregational Life Mtg	7 8:45 Staff Mtg	8 3:00 Coffee Cup 4:00 Prayer Grp 6:30 Choir	9	10 6:00 Church Night Out @ Robinson's	11 Barbeque Festival 5:00 Mother's Day Eve Service
12 4:15 Children's Choir 5:00 Kid's Dinner 5:00 Youth 5:30 Tweens	13 10:00 VBS Planning Meeting Noon MultiCultural Fest Mtg 6:00 Session	14 8:45 Staff Mtg 10:00 Presbytery Mtg in Bowling Green 6:00 SpiritLifters @ Miller House	15 3:00 Coffee Cup 4:00 Prayer Grp 6:30 Choir	16 10:30 PW Coordinating Team 3:00 Personnel Meeting	17	18 8:30 Church Work Day
19 11:30 Extended Table at New China Buffet 4:00 Spiritual Formation 5:00 Kirk Night Dinner & Rwanda Trip Presentation	20	21 8:45 Staff Mtg 10:30 Prime-Timers	22 8:30 Outreach and Evangelism 3:00 Coffee Cup 4:00 Prayer Grp 6:30 Choir	23	24	25
26 11:30 Mission Meeting 4:00 Spiritual Formation 4:15 Children's Choir 5:00 Kid's Dinner 5:00 Youth 5:30 Tweens	27 Memorial Day Office Closed 	28 8:45 Staff Mtg 4:00 Property Meeting	29 3:00 Coffee Cup 4:00 Prayer Grp 6:30 Choir	30 11:00 Pastor's Book Group	31 *Deadline for Scholarship Applications*	

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School (preschool - 5th grade)

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



NEW Youth Sunday School - *Beyond These Walls*

Meets at 9:30 and will travel to a mystery spot each week for breakfast, learning & fellowship.

The Adult Sunday School Class

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

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.

Fellowship

SpiritLifters - an adult dinner group

Tuesday, May 14, 6:00 pm

Restaurant: Miller House
301 East 5th Street

RSVP to Jerry Price

(502) 553-9126, kyprice@outlook.com



PrimeTimers - an older adult (50+) lunch/program & activities group

Tuesday, May 21, 10:30 am

Program: Paul Nave from 911& picnic in pavilion

RSVP to Charlotte Puckett

Charlotte214050@yahoo.com 270-926-2532

Church Night Out - Friday fun & fellowship

Friday, May 10, 6:00 pm

Home of CeCe & Troy Robinson
(the April gathering was postponed)

RSVP to Christine Coy Fohr

ccofohr@gmail.com

The Extended Table - an all-church lunch

Sunday, May 19 after worship

Restaurant: New China Buffet (No RSVP needed)

Join One of our Groups!

Spiritual Formation

This group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday and is open to all women. They discuss topics of interest from books, videos, and other resources.



Usually meets 2nd and 4th Sundays

Dates: May 5, 19

Reading: *Love Does* book/video series by Bob Goff

Lydia Circle — Finished for the Spring

This is our Presbyterian Women's (PW) Group also open to all women. They meet monthly from Sept. to June and use the PW bible study each year.

Meets Second Tuesdays at 10:30

Date: Not meeting this month

Reading: *God's Promise: I Am With You*
Lesson 9

Wednesday Book Group — On Summer Break!

This weekly book group, led by David Searles, selects books to read and discuss one or two chapters a week. All are welcome.

Meets Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Dates: will reconvene in August

Coffee Cup Theology

This group discusses the coming Sunday's lectionary scriptures. All are welcome.

Meets Wednesdays at 3:00 pm

Dates: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Discussion: Sunday Lectionary

Pastor's Study Group

Each month, Christine selects a book that is timely yet not too long. We then meet on the 4th Thursday of the month to discuss. All are welcome.

Meets 4th Thursdays at 11:00

Date: Thursday, May 30

Reading: *Having Nothing, Possessing Everything: Finding Abundant Communities in Unexpected Places* by Michael Mather

PW Coordinating Team

Meets 3rd Thursday every other month at 10:00

Date: Thursday, May 16th

April Highlights!



From left to right: Nadia Wilkes singing *Were You There* at the close of the Palm Sunday Service; Egg Hunt Crafts, Fun and Dance Party; Maundy Thursday attendees, the communion table, Rev. David Madewell assisting with worship, fellowship before the service began; Good Friday Tenebrae with Dylan Fornshell and Aaron Eaves singing a duet, all worship participants leading the readings and responding with song; Glenda, Jerry and Patti Price on Easter morning holding flowers in memory of Jerry and Maxine Price; Easter Baptisms of Gus and Miles Moore, Gia and Jay Hamilton, Josie Hagan, Chelsea Cowan, Lucy Smith, Anna Robinson, Paxton and Ella Grace Hicks, and Collin and Cash Jones

Mother's Day Eve Service



The celebrations of Mother's Day and Father's Day are, for many, difficult days of the year. Many families struggle with infertility or child loss, or have strained relationships within their families. On Saturday, May 11th at 5:00pm we will offer a special service of Healing and Wholeness for who find these holidays difficult. Please invite anyone who may find it helpful.

In Memorium

Maxine Morehead Price

January 5, 1925 — April 15, 2019



Vacation Bible School — Sign Up & Volunteer!

Plans are underway for Vacation Bible School, which will be held this summer from June 10th — 14th! Our theme this year is Shake it Up Café from Cokesbury. Throughout the week kids will get the chance to see how faith is like a cookbook for living out God's word. As usual, we'll have crafts, music, story-telling, Bible challenge, science, and lots more. And...as always...we'll have wonderful volunteers helping to make this fantastic week happen!

That's where you come in! Vacation Bible School is an amazing opportunity to connect with and learn from the wonderful children who attend church here. They are really an amazing group of kids, and VBS gives us all a great opportunity to get to know one another so much better.

So please, consider volunteering! We can use helpers to shepherd children (leading them from one activity station to the next), to lead or assist with activity areas (crafts, games, music, etc.), to prepare snacks in the kitchen, or to just help with odds and ends. Every hand helps and makes this week all the more wonderful for everyone. If you are curious and would like to learn more — or if you just want to sign up today! — contact Stephanie Dube at weekdayschool@fpcobky.com or (270) 315-6910.



Registration is open to all children aged 4 — 5th grade.
Forms can be found on the front welcome table or in the church office.

Scholarships

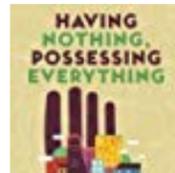
If you are a graduating high school senior or a current college student and are interested in applying for a First Presbyterian Church scholarship, please pick up an application in the church office.

The deadline of the application to be return is May 31, 2019. Any scholarship application received after the due date will not be considered.



Pastor's Book Study

This month the Pastor's Book Group will read *Having Nothing, Possessing Everything: Finding Abundant Communities in Unexpected Places* by Michael Mather. This is the story of how one church found abundance in a community of material poverty. Viewing people as their most valuable resource moved church members beyond their own walls and out into the streets, where they discovered folks rich in strength, talents, determination, and love. We will meet on May 30th at 11:00 in the parlor.



Church Work Day & Projects

Spring has sprung, which means our church property is filled with opportunities for weeding and trimming, picking up sticks and maybe even planting some flowers. Come out for the Church Work Day on May 18th from 8:30 — 11:30 am to lend a hand.

Can't make that day? Look in PresbyNotes for a list of projects you could work on at your convenience. Thanks!



Worship and Wonder

Worship and Wonder, led by Linda Morris, is our fantastic program for children and meets between Children's Time and Communion. This month, the children will be wondering about:

- May 5:** Jesus Appears to Thomas
- May 12:** Jesus Commissions the Disciples
- May 19:** Jesus Appears to the Disciples by the Sea
- May 26:** God's Gift of the Holy Spirit

Disaster Preparedness Team Reminder: Tornado and Severe Weather Season is Here!

If you have watched TV recently, you are aware that devastating tornadoes have struck a wide swath of our country. You have probably heard the local warnings on our newscasts or watched the alerts crawl along the bottom of the TV screen. We have been fortunate so far, but statistically we are due for some sort of major storm in Kentucky. What happens to you and your family if a tornado or other severe weather develops here depends upon whether you made a few preparations ahead of time.



- Before a disaster, have a plan for tornadoes, fire, and earthquakes and review it with everyone in your household. This includes identifying a meeting place should you have to evacuate the house.
- If severe weather is predicted during the night, have sturdy shoes and a jacket or cover-up by the bed of each person. Also, have keys, your purse or billfold, and charged cell phone (with charger cord).
- Identify your safe room—an interior room away from windows and on the lowest level—and go there immediately if the sirens sound or your weather radio goes off. Do NOT go outside to see if it's really bad out there!
- Have some emergency items in a backpack or small rolling bag and place those in your safe room when bad weather is forecast. Minimal suggested items: a battery powered weather radio, flashlights, batteries, first aid kit, a whistle to alert rescuers, a pen and paper to leave a message, bike helmets/hard hats, a wrench to turn off the gas, and a knife or multi-purpose tool. Have some cash in there too. (If power is out, cash registers and ATMs won't work.)
- Have some bottled water and food such as energy bars or cheese crackers, and don't forget pet or baby items!
- Keep an emergency supply of essential medicines, or — at the least — have a complete list.
- Be sure emergency contacts are programmed into your cell phone and put a written list in your emergency kit bag. Also include your doctors & insurance info. Should your family be in different locations and unable to reach each other, have an agreed upon in-town and out-of-town contact for everyone to check in with.

Rwanda Presentation

In March, Susan Godthaab and Deanna Wehrung traveled with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program to Rwanda. There, they met with local leaders who are working on the ground toward efforts at peacemaking and reconciliation. They learned so much, took wonderful pictures, and came home with full hearts.



On May 19th at 5:00pm, Deanna and Susan will share with us about their trip and all that they learned. The Congregational Life team will offer a meal for everyone beforehand. Let's all come out to learn from them and to thank them for representing our church so well. Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, March 15th if you plan to attend.

MultiCultural Fest Meeting

One of the hallmarks of our congregation is our annual MultiCultural Festival, and this year marks our 21st year. Again and again, people say how important this festival was to who we are as a church and how we demonstrate God's love in our community.

With that in mind, consider joining the planning team so that we can make this year's festival the best one yet!

Our first meeting will be on Monday, May 13th at Noon. Lunch will be provided. Bring your dreams and ideas, and help us continue this wonderful part of our church's legacy. If you have any questions, contact Debbie McCoy at demccoy@bellsouth.net or (270) 925-4649.

