

Three red heart-shaped balloons are arranged vertically, with the top balloon partially obscured by the word 'MANNA'.

MANNA

February 2023



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY



NOTES FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

WILL MCKAY

...“eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3)

This portion of Paul’s letter to the Ephesian church has been a constant reminder to me lately. I see the Lord at work in many lives. Our times in worship and small groups have been richly blessed. I hear stories of growth and victory on a daily basis. The Lord is at work.

Which also means that the enemy is working.

This should not alarm us or cause us to lose hope—the devil stands defeated and will never overturn the victory credited to us in Jesus (Col. 2:13–15; Rev. 20:10; Rom. 8:31–39). However, we are wise to remember that—between the crucifixion and second coming of Jesus—the devil continues to deceive. . . discourage. . . distract. . . and divide God’s people.

One of the ways that we war victoriously against the enemy is through spiritual alignment, or unity. A “one-ness” of heart, mind, motives, relationships, direction, etc. Unity prescribed by God in Scripture and applied in real places, among real people, in real time. A unity that transcends uniformity, prevailing preferences, traditions, cultural expectations, etc. Alignment originating in the Father, guaranteed in the Son, and applied by the Spirit.

Unity is supposed to be the normal experience in churches led by the Holy Spirit. We don’t manufacture unity, but are to “maintain” it. We are to eagerly maintain unity—rushing to preserve unity at a faster rate than we advance independent agendas. We are to peacefully maintain unity—relying upon the power of the Spirit instead of force or persuasion. We are to personally maintain unity—this is the responsibility and joy of each member. Last, we are to actually maintain unity—this comes to us as a command designed to protect the Bride for which Christ died and eternally lives to preserve and promote. To fail in this area is to serve as the enemy’s secret-agent, helping him to undermine the purposes of Jesus within His Body; to succeed is to dance with our Master on the snake’s dead head (Rom. 16:20).

The Lord is at work. Likewise,

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Pet. 5:8–11).

May we continue to eagerly “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”!

I love you—

Pastor Will



NOTES FROM MATURE ADLTS GROWING IN CHRIST (SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY) BOYD SMITH

M.A.G.I.C Friends,

I hope you are all doing well as we cruise into February. Our next luncheon is scheduled for Monday, February 27, at 12:00 pm and will be in the FLC. I hope you will be here for it and be sure to call the office and let us know by Wednesday, February 22. Debbie and I will be meeting with the M.A.G.I.C. leadership team very soon to go over the 2023 calendar to make any necessary changes. I will include the entire spring calendar of events next month. Meanwhile, enjoy a moment of laughter as you read the following...

After a worship service, the mother of a fidgety seven-year old boy told me how she finally got her son to sit still and be quiet. About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, "If you don't be quiet, the pastor is going to lose his place and will have to start his sermon all over again!" It worked.

With love,
Bro. Boyd

NOTES FROM MUSIC MINISTRY MIKE ROSE



Hello Friends!

Worship is so exciting at FBC! There's still room for you if you would like to join us in leading others in worship. We have spots available in the choir loft and on the praise team. If you sang in the choir at one time and would like to join us again, I would love for you to meet with us! We practice on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm in the choir room downstairs.

The praise team rehearsal is on Sunday evenings at 4:30 pm and on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. If you feel called to either one of these ministries, please see Michael or me. We would love to discuss your involvement in worship.

You will recognize in the next few weeks some new anthems from our worship choir. We are working hard to keep worship fresh and exciting at FBC. Thank you so much for allowing us the opportunity to serve you. It is such a pleasure to serve alongside you here in Murray. Thank you so much for your support!

Blessings,
Mike

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, a decision regarding the cancellation of Sunday morning activities will be made by 6:00 am. If Sunday activities are canceled, WPSD (Channel 6) and WAAJ-FM (89.7) will be notified by 6:15 am. We will announce this via our website, social media, and church-wide email. A cancellation decision will be made by noon concerning Sunday and Wednesday evening activities and be reported in the same manner.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

save the date

FEBRUARY 19 | FAMILY LIFE CENTER
EASTER EMPHASIS

JOIN US FOR LUNCH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE!

FBC MURRAY WOMEN'S MINISTRY

NOTES FROM KIDS1ST MINISTRY

RACHEL RIQUELME



We are in need of volunteers for Midweek for Kids! For the second session (February 22-March 29), we need two volunteers for Baby & Toddlers, one for Preschool & Kindergarten, and two for 2nd & 3rd grade. For the third session (April 12-May 17), we need two for Baby & Toddlers, two for Preschool & Kindergarten, and two for 2nd & 3rd grade. We provide the curriculum and teaching plan and prep the materials. You will just need to become familiar with the lesson and be ready to teach and everything else will be ready for you when you come to the classroom. It is such a joy to teach our kids how to know and follow Jesus.

Our kids are memorizing scripture each week for Midweek! Our February verses are:

Proverbs 1:10 - Due on 2/1

James 1:5 - Due on 2/8

Luke 6:31 - Due on 2/15

Matthew 5:44 - Due on 2/22 (Scripture Memory Awards Day!)

We also need a volunteer to serve in the baby room one time every 5 weeks as a part of our rotation on Sunday mornings. Let me know if you are available. It is such a sweet privilege to get to care for our babies at church and teach them that church is a safe place where they are cared for, welcomed, and loved by God!

Our TAWG (Time Alone With God) for the month of February can be found at fbcmurray.org/kids.

Kids who have completed 2nd-5th grade are invited to join us at Crossings Kids Camp, July 29-August 1. We are staying in the Hurst Lodge and the cost per camper is \$330. A deposit of \$80 is due by February 15! If you are interested, sign up at fbcmurray.org/kids. If you need a scholarship, send an email to rriquelme@fbcmurray.org.



DID YOU

KNOW?

One week of Vacation Bible School results in 12-13 hours of intense discipleship and the gospel being shared daily; one week of VBS is equal to 7 months of ministry! VBS is powerful!

We are beginning the planning process for VBS. Please be praying about how God would have you be a part of this ministry!



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

TINA MYERS

We have something for everyone in the library; come in and see what we have to offer! We are open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm and on Sunday morning from 9:00 am – 10:30 am.

Parents, we will have another Parent's Night Out on Friday, February 10, from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm! Visit fbcmurray.org/events for more information and to sign up. We have 5 spots available for ages birth – 3 and 20 spots available for ages 4 – grade 5.

Our author of the month for February is children's author Laura Numeroff. She is the author of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and several other books written in the same style, such as *If You Give a Dog a Donut* and *If You Give a Moose a Muffin*. Laura's books will be on display through February 28th.

5TH QUARTER

**FEBRUARY 3
9:30 PM - 12:00 AM
FBC FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

Immediately after the MHS vs. CCHS basketball game.

JOIN US AS WE PLAY UNDERGROUND CHURCH!

All 6th-12th graders are welcome! Contact Christy Mattingly for more information (cmattingly@fbcmurray.org). Food will not be served.

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FOR MIDWEEK!



At 6:00 pm, children meet on the 1st and 2nd floors of the Education Building, middle and high school students are in the Worship Center of the FLC. Adults have gender-specific studies on the 3rd floor of the Education Building.

Men meet in **room 303** and work through discipleship topics based on scripture passages. Warren Edminister is leading.

Vickie Travis and Debbie J. Bell are leading a group for young moms in **room 304**, Debbie Plummer is leading a group for women of all ages in **room 306**, and Laura Coleman is leading a group for young/college-age women in **room 305**.



SAVE THE DATE FOR

DNOW

**February 24-25
Family Life Center
Stay tuned for more information!**

FBC MURRAY STUDENT MINISTRY

FBC Murray Women's Ministry

Check out these small groups for women that meet outside of Wednesday nights!

Bible Reading Groups:

Sarah Cunningham | Tuesdays | 12:30-2:00 pm
This group meets at Sarah's house.
Contact Sarah at 270-752-7612 for her address.

Rebecca Burton and Huang Kelly | Thursdays |
10:00 am-12:00 pm | room 318

Bible Study on Amos by Jennifer Rothschild:

Doris Brown | Wednesdays | 9:00-11:00 am | room 310
Books are \$15 and can be picked up in the church office.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHURCH INFORMATION

THANK YOU NOTES

Sharon and Paul Wells' family thanks the church for their support and prayers during the passing of Sharon.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Members and friends of First Baptist Church have established scholarships to help students further their education. Scholarship applications for Fall 2023/Spring 2024 are available in the church office and on the church website, fbcmurray.org, under the "Contact" tab. Limited scholarship funds are available and are awarded each year to students with FBC affiliation, in particular with emphases on Christian and Music Ministry. If you have any questions or need further information, you may contact Lori Morgan at the church office, 270-753-1854, or by email, lmorgan@fbcmurray.org. **The deadline for applications is Wednesday, April 12, 2023.**

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Fellowship Suppers are on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm in the Family Life Center! Adult meals are \$5, children ages 3-12 are \$3, college students are \$1, and children 2 and under are free. Each week will include the following: vegetable side item, salad, bread, desserts, and drinks.

- **February 1:** potato soup and grilled cheese
- **February 8:** salisbury steak
- **February 15:** poppyseed chicken casserole
- **February 22:** pizza casserole

BLESSING BOX

This month's items are canned chicken and tuna! Items can be dropped off in the basket by the banner in the Welcome Center. Sunday School classes and families are invited to sign up to adopt the blessing box in Riviera Courts for a week at a time. Sign up at fbcmurray.org/serve.

RADIO/TV

Our 10:30 am worship service is aired at 10:30 am on WAAJ-FM 89.7. Our service is also broadcast on Thursday at 8:00 pm on Murray Electric System's channel 15.

NEW MEMBERS

Adrian Partridge joined by Statement on Sunday, November 6.

Jazzy Martin (Partridge) joined by Letter on Sunday, November 6.

FINANCES (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022)

\$ 1,433,246.00	Budgeted as of 12/31/2022
\$ 1,342,397.56	Budget Receipts as of 12/31/2022
\$ 1,389,731.54	Budget Expenditures as of 12/31/2022
\$ 161,702.00	WMO 2022 Goal
\$ 167,625.68	WMO Receipts as of 12/31/2022

FINANCIAL MEMORIALS

Contributions to the 2022 & 2023 World Mission Offerings have been received in memory of Lawrence "Butch" Jackson & Peggy Berry, Ray England, Franklin Carroll, and Gene Bailey.

VAN DRIVER

The van driver for the month of February is David McDowell. If you would like a ride to Sunday School (9:15 am) or the worship service (10:30 am), contact David at 270-227-3109.

ATTENDANCE

January 1	290	203 S. 4th St., Murray, KY 42071 fbcmurray.org 270-753-1854
January 8	351	
January 15	400	
January 22	350	