

MANNA

January 2023



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY



NOTES FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

WILL MCKAY

A New Year—for many—presents opportunity for all sorts of fresh starts. Many of you, in the opening days of the calendar year, will develop personal habits designed to add clarity, health, growth, and purpose to your lives. This is a good thing to do from time-to-time: of all people, God's people should examine themselves in light of God's purposes, revealed in Christ and empowered by the Spirit.

Some of you will begin to do things this month that you have not yet done—or do them a different way—in order to enjoy something you have yet to obtain or become what you have yet to be. You have in mind a preferred future that requires adjustment, and whether or not you get there hinges upon the decision to either wish for it or work for it. That “preferred future” is known by many names: Target. Goal. Outcome. Vision. A vision, in order to motivate consistent action, must be clear and compelling. What isn't clear confuses, scatters, and frustrates; what doesn't compel encourages disinterest. Many good habits get dropped for lack of clear vision, and many clear visions are forgotten for lack of concerted, undistracted effort.

Establish the vision. Create the path. Do the next thing. Trust the process. Repeat.

We are living—together—in a season of transition. . . but the Lord has not left us guessing about the clear and compelling future toward which He is working all things. If our paths are scattered or steps erratic, it isn't for lack of direction. The task before us is the same as for every other generation of Christians and churches: to understand the will of the Lord and order our steps according to His way, expecting His Presence to guide us and Spirit to enable us. We cannot simply wish for progress. . . we must work for it. Listen. Adjust. Persevere. Trust. Act.

What would the Lord have you to be and do this year that will only be made possible by His wisdom and strength? What would the Lord have us to be and do in the days ahead that only He can accomplish? There are opportunities afforded to all Christians and churches everywhere throughout all time. But what—specifically—about you? About us?

These are the questions I'm asking right now, for myself and for us; I hope that you are as well. We do not know what the next day holds, let alone the next year. But we do know that our God is faithful (1 Thess. 5:23–24), His authority unrivaled (Eph. 1:21–23), and His promises sure (1 Pet. 1:3–4). He will be magnified in our joys and sorrows, strengths and weaknesses, highs and lows.

It brings me inexpressible joy to wish you a Happy New Year. Our family is grateful to be part of the First Baptist family. I am praying for you—and for us—as we begin this year together. We have a lot to talk about, pray for, and work toward. The Lord knows all of that and remains more ready to answer than we are to ask (Eph. 3:20).

Pastor Will

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FOR FELLOWSHIP SUPPER AND MIDWEEK!

Beginning January 11

Fellowship Supper begins at 5:00 pm in the FLC. Adult meals are \$5, children ages 3-12 are \$3, college students are \$1, and children 2 and under are free.

Following dinner at 6:00 pm, children will meet on the 1st and 2nd floors of the Education Building, middle and high school students will be in the Worship Center of the FLC, and adults will have gender-specific studies on the 3rd floor of the Education Building. Stay tuned for information about adult Bible Studies!





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

Happy New Year, M.A.G.I.C. Friends!

I hope that 2023 will be a great year for you! I look forward to seeing who the Lord brings us this year to fill our staff vacancies. Meanwhile, we will continue to have our monthly fellowships with our first one scheduled for Monday, January 23. Don't forget that we will also have our annual white elephant gift swap afterwards so bring a gift if you want to participate. This will be a great time to come back again if you haven't been in a while or if you have never attended a M.A.G.I.C. fellowship. If you need additional information, give me a call.

My prayer for you this new year is from 3 John 1:2, *"Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health just as your soul prospers."*

Bro. Boyd

NOTES FROM MUSIC MINISTRY MIKE ROSE



Dear Friends:

I can't believe we've just finished the seventh Christmas music program since I joined you folks here at First Baptist! I want to thank everyone who had a part in this year's music.

To all the folks who helped with production, I am so grateful. Thank you to Ken and Steve upstairs and to James, Chris, and Sheri in the back. Thank you to Allen and Jasper for putting the production all together. I wish to thank Lisa and Eleanor for their help with the accompaniment and Joyce for being there for rehearsals. For each member of the choir, I am grateful. Thank you to Danny and Lori for sharing with us their solo voices and to Sterling who narrated so plainly and thoughtfully. Thank you to our children who helped us with the finale and to you for your attendance during the event. It was good to have such a nice crowd to sing to!

Again, we have room for you if you would like to join our number. We do have a lot of fun, and our goal is simple: to enhance the worship experience for everyone in attendance. Come join us! We begin rehearsals again on Sunday, January 8, at 6:00 pm.

It has been such a pleasure to serve you these past seven Christmases. God bless you in this new year.

Blessings,
Mike

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, a decision regarding the cancellation of Sunday morning services will be made by 6:00 am. If services are canceled, WPSD (Channel 6) and WAAJ-FM (89.7) will be notified by 6:15 am. We will announce 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.

NOTES FROM KIDS1ST MINISTRY

RACHEL RIQUELME



The January TAWG (Time Alone With God) is available for pickup in the Welcome Center or you can download it from the website at fbcmurray.org/kids.

It is time to begin thinking about Crossings! 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. If you are interested, there is a sign up at fbcmurray.org/kids. If you need a scholarship, send me an email at rriquelme@fbcmurray.org.

Midweek Awards

This semester during MidWeek at Kids 1st, we are going to begin memorizing scripture.

If your child memorizes the first verse, they earn a backpack that they can carry their Bible, verse cards, and materials in for church. As they learn more verses, they will earn awards for their backpack!



KIDS1ST TALENT SHOW

PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY
JANUARY 11 | 6:00-7:30 PM
SIGN UP AT FBCMURRAY.ORG/KIDS



KIDS 1ST MINISTRY



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

TINA MYERS

Stop by the library in January and sign up for a library card and/or to use the e-book system and your name will be put in a drawing for a free book! Get ready for colder weather by accessing our library for new reading materials.

We had a great time at Parent's Night Out last month. A huge thank you to the helpers who made the night a success! We are planning another Parent's Night Out near Valentine's Day, so keep your eyes and ears open for more information coming soon.

Our Author of the Month for January is Andrew Peterson. He writes books for children and adults, including his four book fantasy series for kids entitled *The Wingfeather Saga*. Andrew's books will be on display through January 31.

FBC Men's Ministry

Men's Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, January 7

8:00 am

Family Life Center

Childcare is provided



There will be a meeting on Wednesday, January 4, at 1:00 pm in room AE310 to plan for the International Game Day on Saturday, January 21, in the FLC and the International Focus Retreat on February 3-5 at The Hill in Hardin, KY. Email Paula Alcott at salcott@twc.com with any questions.

INTERESTED IN
INTERNATIONAL
MINISTRY?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHURCH INFORMATION

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed January 2 in observance of the holiday. The church office will resume normal office hours on Tuesday, January 3.

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.

- **January 11:** Baked Spaghetti
- **January 18:** Chicken Pot Pie
- **January 25:** Sloppy Joe's

BLESSING BOX

This month's items are pasta and spaghetti sauce! 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

Trent Holland joined by Profession of Faith/Baptism on Sunday, November 27.
Todd Sr. and Melissa Brown joined by Letter on Sunday, December 4.

FINANCES (AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2022)

\$ 1,323,024.00	Budgeted as of 11/30/2022
\$ 1,185,230.87	Budget Receipts as of 11/30/2022
\$ 1,279,163.87	Budget Expenditures as of 11/30/2022
\$ 161,702.00	WMO 2022 Goal
\$ 107,595.32	WMO Receipts as of 11/30/2022

MEMORIALS

Financials Memorials

Contributions to the 2022 World Mission Offering have been received in honor of Debbie J. Bell, Don Cherry, David & Martha Parker and Winfield & Judy Rose.

VAN DRIVER

The van driver for the month of January is Tyler DeLaney. If you would like a ride to Sunday School (9:15 am) or the worship service (10:30 am), contact Tyler at 731-414-7089.

ATTENDANCE

November 27	395	203 S. 4th St., Murray, KY 42071 fbcmurray.org 270-753-1854
December 4	402	
December 11	401	
December 18	375	