

MANNA

September 2022



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY



NOTES FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

RUSTY ELLISON

Church family,

Fall is here and it is a beautiful time of year around Murray. And, as well, it is a very exciting time in the life of our church. As we wrap up *Experiencing God* together, the timing is of God as our search team continues to seek God's will regarding the coming of our next pastor. The first tenet, as most all of us should know by now, asserts that God is always at work around us.

We are witnessing God at work week after week. As a transitional pastor, I sometimes find myself serving a church in which it is a rather uneventful time in the life of a church, the "in between" period between the "old" pastor and the "new." This has not been the case here at Murray. Most every week since we began together at Easter, we've seen the evidence of God at work.

We have heard the testimonies of those who have come for baptism and celebrated how God is at work in their lives! Professions of faith and baptism, of course, are an integral part of why we do what we do as a church, declaring the Gospel to all who will hear!

The last three weeks, now that camp is over, I have been to Eastern Kentucky visiting with ministry partners and delivering both funds and much-needed supplies. Words do not adequately express what I have seen and heard on my visits. The devastation is just hard to imagine. I've talked with some who lost everything they own. I heard two stories of those who survived the night of the flood by climbing to the top of trees in order to stay above the raging water. I've heard the stories of the cries for help that night, before helicopters came to airlift them to safety. I've encouraged and loved on a pastor who had the funeral for four kids from one family who lost their lives that night. I could go on and on, but, it will be years before things approach normalcy in little towns like Hindman, Dwarf, and Emmalena.

In the midst of the pain, suffering and loss of life, we see God at work through the church as the resilient people of Eastern Kentucky love and encourage each other. We see God at work as 17 Baptist State Conventions send disaster relief (DR) teams spread out over the area for the long to be endured task of cleaning up, in the meantime serving tens of thousands of meals to those who are hungry. Our own Ken and Jill Asher are in Whitesburg as I write this, working with fellow Kentuckians with our DR folks there. Whitesburg is one of the hardest hit communities in the entire area.

When the next opportunity comes, let me urge all of you who are able to take advantage of training offered by Ron Crow and his team in order to be ready to answer the call when the next disaster comes.

All of us can agree that these disasters are coming with increasing frequency. In conclusion, I remain very thankful that I have had the opportunity to serve you all during this season of transition. Your search team is the finest with whom I have ever worked! Continue to pray that God will give them necessary wisdom as they diligently seek His will in the search. I'm excited to see what God does in the process in the coming weeks.

God is always at work around us. Even in times when we do not have a "permanent" pastor. If you don't see how God is working, it's because you're not looking! How this has been true at First Baptist Murray! It is my privilege to serve with you as we go through this time together!

I hope to see you Sunday with a Bible in your hand and the love of Christ in your heart.

Blessings,
Rusty

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE/DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR JASON ELLERBROOK



Church Family,

As I write this article, we are just coming to the end of Welcome Week for Murray State Students. In the past three days, FBC Murray has planned and hosted four events that have served over 500 college students. Well over 100 church members were involved in leading and serving at the BCM Road Trip, international picnic, college lunch and dodgeball at The Net. God is at work on the campus of MSU and we get to be involved. Thank you for your faithfulness. There are many opportunities to serve college students. If you are interested in adopting a student, please let me know. Their connection to you is so significant in their involvement at FBC Murray.

Midweek Bible studies are off to an awesome start. We saw more in attendance at the fellowship supper and in the studies than I have seen in a long time. It is not too late to jump in and get involved! Email me at jellerbrook@fbcmurray.org if you are looking for a way to plug in.

I am very thankful for this church. Being together in worship during this season of transition has been wonderful. Last week I saw the body of Christ, a beautiful blend of young and old, worshipping together. Some sitting and some standing with arms lifted high. I know that He is with us and that we are with Him — because of our love for one another and our unity in Christ.

You are loved and lifted up,
Jason Ellerbrook



Mark your calendar for the World Mission Offering Kickoff on Sunday, September 25! We will be reading scripture in different languages, hearing about the organizations that our WMO supports, and more! You won't want to miss this mission-oriented Sunday!



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

Hello M.A.G.I.C. Friends!

I am sure most of you have heard by now that I will be taking a paid leave of absence September 4 through October 14. I had planned on retiring at the end of the year but we are in the middle of transitions as we seek a lead pastor, worship pastor, and youth pastor. Thanks to our Transitional Pastor, Rusty Ellison, he found a way to keep me around for another year. I will use this time to get caught up on rest, mentally, physically, and spiritually. I will miss the trip to Cheddar's in Paducah, but look forward to being back with you for the next M.A.G.I.C. luncheon on October 24 at Paris Landing! Be sure to sign up by October 19.

Boyd

NOTES FROM MUSIC MINISTRY MIKE ROSE



Hello Friends!

It's so good to worship with you at First Baptist! We have picked up a few new folks on our Worship Team and there is plenty of room for more. If you are interested in playing an instrument or singing with us, please see Michael or me at your earliest convenience!

It's time to be thinking about Christmas! For our Christmas presentation this year, we would like to do something similar to what we did last December. It was so nice to celebrate with those beloved traditional carols that I thought it might be nice to do a program of "Carols and Readings" this Christmas season. If you are interested in singing with this group, please let me know! Come and see me soon and we'll get you plugged in. I would love to have the loft filled for this presentation. I promise that it will not be too difficult, and that you will have loads of fun participating with us! Join your heart and your voice as we prepare our congregation for the most exciting of seasons in the church year!

Again, what a pleasure it is to be working alongside of you here in this wonderful place. Great things are just around the corner. Come and sing with us!

Blessings,
Mike



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 6:00-7:30 PM

Bring your family and join us on Wednesday evenings for a time of fellowship and in-depth Bible studies. Children meet on the 1st and 2nd floors of the Education Building, students meet in the FLC Worship Center, and adults meet on the 3rd floor of the Education Building. You can also volunteer to serve in kids or student ministry. Email Rachel Riquelme at rriquelme@fbc-murray.org for Kids Ministry, and Jon Kyle Allred at jallred@fbc-murray.org for Student Ministry.

- Jason Ellerbrook is leading *The Life Of A Jesus Follower* in room 310 (coed)
- Graig Wortham is leading *Rediscover Church* in room 303 (coed)
- Debbie Plummer is facilitating a Bible Reading Group in room 301 (women only)

NOTES FROM KIDS1ST MINISTRY

RACHEL RIQUELME



It is a new school year and the beginning to another great year in Kids1st. We have new families participating, kids moving up to the second floor, and kids diving deeper in their journey of discipleship, so here is some information about what we are doing and the why behind it.

As you may know, during Sunday School, preschool classes, and in Kids1st Worship we use the Gospel Project. This allows what we learn in Sunday School, preschool classes, and Kids1st Worship to build on each other to deepen your child's understanding. We go through scripture chronologically and take three years to go through the whole Bible. We are in 1 Kings now.

During Sunday School, our approach to learning on the second floor is through rotations. Children learn the Bible Story focus in one rotation. In this rotation they read their Bibles, learn from the Gospel Project lesson, and get to see how Christ is at the center of everything in scripture. During the second rotation, your children learn Bible literacy skills. They learn how to find chapters and verses in scripture, what genres are in the Bible and how to read them, and they memorize scripture and the books of the Bible. Then they have their prayer and fellowship rotation where they get to spin the wheel of prayer, pray for someone on the list, learn about how and why we pray, and connect with their peers to build lasting relationships.


During Kids1st Worship, your child learns the Bible story content on a deeper level, engages in worship with scripture based songs, and participates in activities that drive home what they are learning based on where we are in scripture, our Christ connection, and the 99 essential doctrines of our faith.

Beginning this semester on Wednesday evenings in MidWeek, we are going through the Bible book by book starting with Genesis. In large group, children are learning how to study God's word using the **OIA** approach. We are learning how to **observe** scripture, **interpret** scripture, and **apply** scripture with a gospel lens. In small group, your children are interacting with scripture, having time to reflect on what they read, and use the principles they learned in small group. Then they finish up the evening being engaged in activities that drive home what they learned from scripture.

Exciting things are happening in the Kids1st Ministry and we are so grateful your family is a part of it!


WORLD MISSION OFFERING
 Goal \$1,617,020

We kick off the World Mission Offering on Sunday, September 25! Our kids are singing in the 10:30 am worship service. We are singing Revelation 7:9 from Seeds Family Worship.



Have you checked out the Parent Hub outside the library? We have curated books for the ages and stages of your children along with resources about our MidWeek Bible content, Sunday morning content, TAWGS, and our Kids1st Scope and Sequence which shows where we will be in scripture for the year.

SEPTEMBER TIME ALONE WITH GOD

Parents, are you looking for a way to help your child read God's Word daily? Use our September TAWG (Time Alone with God) sheet to help your child get into the routine of reading scripture daily. Kids will read a few verses in the book of John each day to follow along with the guide.

find a copy in the Welcome Center!

Tell us about your child

Your child is growing and changing in their faith and in their development. Help us lead and teach them at Kids1st in the most effective way possible. Grab a "Tell Us About Your Child" form from the Welcome Center, fill it out, and return it to Rachel!





NOTES FROM STUDENT MINISTRY

JON KYLE ALLRED

Promotion Sunday was August 14 and we gained new 6th graders and said goodbye to our seniors! The Lord is faithful.

MidWeek kicked off on August 17. We will be studying the book of Colossians.

The Crosstown Classic is Friday, August 26. We will be tailgating at the MHS vs. CCHS football game at CCHS from 6:00-7:30 pm.

Our student LifeGroups kick off Sunday, August 28! If your student is interested in joining a gender-specific small group led by college students, email me at jalred@fbcmurray.org.

Stay up-to-date on all things youth by joining our group text on Remind 101.

Remind 101 Texts

Text
@fbcmky to
81010 to
stay
connected
and up to
date on all
youth
ministry
things!



CROSSTOWN CLASSIC MHS VS. CCHS



AUGUST 26 | 6:00-7:00PM

FREE FOOD AND DRINKS! STOP BY THE FBC
TENT NEAR THE FOOTBALL FIELD.



WE WANT YOU TO JOIN A LIFEGROUP!

COME EXPERIENCE LIFE CHANGE IN A
SMALL GROUP SETTING WITH
STUDENTS YOUR AGE. EACH
LIFEGROUP IS LED BY TWO
COLLEGE STUDENTS.



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

TINA MYERS

Do you have suggestions for eBooks or audio books to add to our collection? Our online eBook system is available for anyone to use, all that is needed is a library card. Availability is different from what we have in the library itself, as we are currently building this collection. We already have a good selection of both fiction and non-fiction available online but will be adding more soon. If you have ideas, please email the library at library@fbcmurray.org, give us a call at 270-753-1854, or stop by when we are open. We can also help you set up an account to begin using the system if you haven't already.

Parents, if your child has classroom requirements for **Accelerated Reading** or nightly reading, the library has lots to choose from. Also, if you are home-schooling, please stop by and see what we have to offer and tell your home-school friends.

This month, instead of author of the month, we will focus on biographies. They will be on display until September 30.

September Prayer Guide

A Prayer Guide for the Pastor Search Committee, the process, and the people of FBC

For the month of September, the prayer guide will be included in the bulletin and Thursday Update. Please continue to pray for our church body, church staff, search committees, and our pastors to come.

A prayer for the people of FBC Murray based on Colossians 3:12-17:

“Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:12-17

Heavenly Father, we, the Body of Christ have the honor of having been chosen by You to be holy because of Your great love for us. As we stand in prayer for the staff, and the entire church on this journey, we pray each of us will put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience for the journey may be long. May we have grace to be patient with one another and the process. Reveal places of offense we may have with any other person so that we will forgive quickly, remembering we have been forgiven. We pray nothing will stand between us except the love of God and the Holy Spirit, binding us together in a unity that cannot be broken.

Because it is Your hand that has placed us in this body, may the peace of Christ rule our hearts, minds, and wills. We pray a spirit of thankfulness will permeate our personal lives and corporate life in Christ. We pray Your Word would penetrate our souls and spirits to the depths of our beings so that we may gain wisdom and spiritual insight from the teachings we receive. May we encourage one another through worship as we pray together and sing to You with gratitude in our hearts. Keep us mindful that whatever we do as individuals and as the church, in word or in deed, is to be done in the name and under the authority of the Lord Jesus, giving praise, honor, and glory to God the Father through Him.

September Prayer Guide

A Prayer Guide for the Pastor Search Committee, the process, and the people of FBC

September 1 | Hebrews 12:1-3

Pray for the Pastor Search Committee to be confident that they are being held before the Lord in prayer and be energized to go the distance with great faith and endurance.

September 2 | John 10:2-4

Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will hear God speak through the Holy Spirit as they pray, read His Word, and confirm His leadership through circumstances and the church.

September 3 | John 17:6-8

Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will listen well to what the Lord is saying to them in prayer which is far more important than what they are saying to Him.

September 4 | Psalm 119:105-108

Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will lean fully upon the Holy Spirit to distinguish and to choose rightly between that which seems good and that which is God's best.

September 5 | Proverbs 15:22

Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will seek the counsel of others in determining God's will.

September 6 | Hebrews 11:6

Pray for the Pastor Search Committee to face any crisis of belief with faith, trusting God will reveal to them what He wants to do through them.

September 7 | Mark 10:27

Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will determine to believe God will do what He has said He will do.

September 8 | Matthew 6:33

Pray that the Pastor Search Committee, the staff, and the church will learn to function according to Kingdom principles to do Kingdom work, and thus experience Kingdom power and Kingdom results.

September 9 | 1 Chronicles 14:8-16

Pray that the Pastor Search Committee and the staff will be prepared and willing for God to change the "strategy" He calls them to follow, not relying on yesterday's guidance for today, not using human wisdom to make godly decisions.

September 10 | Daniel 4:2-3

Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will be able to tell the wonderful, unexplainable ways God has directed them and worked through them.

September 11 | 1 Corinthians 2:10-12

May all the First Baptist family as well as the coming pastor and his family be ready and willing to receive all God is ready to bestow.

September Prayer Guide

A Prayer Guide for the Pastor Search Committee, the process, and the people of FBC

September 12 | Ephesians 4:15-16

Pray that as the body of Christ we will speak the truth in love to one another and grow in every way into Christ as the Head from whom the whole body will be formed into His image and be closely joined together and connected as one.

September 13 | 1 Corinthians 12:7

Pray that we would view ourselves as a priesthood of believers through which we may each be given revelation by the Holy Spirit to benefit not just ourselves but all.

September 14 | Ephesians 6:20

Pray that both Rusty Ellison and the coming pastor will be given a spirit of boldness to preach God's Kingdom without compromise.

September 15 | Ephesians 4:11-13

Pray that the coming pastor, staff, and leaders will have all wisdom to grow the body to maturity in Christ.

September 16 | 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

Pray for the staff, the leadership of the church, and members to receive encouragement from one another, to have mutual regard so that there is no division and that we demonstrate a sincere concern for others, honoring one another with our words and deeds.

September 17 | 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

Pray that the coming pastor will not depend on his finite human ability but will have confidence that God knows what He is doing and will endow him with the power to do what God has called him to do.

September 18 | Luke 17:5

Pray for the church to allow the Lord to increase our faith by stepping out without seeing exactly where we are going but trusting the One who is leading.

September 19 | Matthew 28:19-20

Pray that the ministerial staff and church leadership will exhort and equip the church in following the Holy Spirit to impact our community and spheres of influence throughout the world so that we will be the Great Commission church we are called to be.

September 20 | Judges 6:14-16

Pray that the God-sized assignments God gives to us as the body of Christ, to the staff, and to the coming pastor will be beyond our reach so that we know they are from God, a work only He can accomplish through our obedience.

September 21 | Hebrews 11:8

Pray that the coming pastor and his family will have the faith of Abraham to follow God without knowing where they are going. May he and his family have a genuine faith that is demonstrated by action.

September Prayer Guide

A Prayer Guide for the Pastor Search Committee, the process, and the people of FBC

September 22 | Acts 9:42

Pray those outside our church will see things happening through the people of First Baptist that cannot be explained except that God Himself has done the work, and that they will be drawn to such a God.

September 23 | 1 Kings 19:15-20, 35-36

Pray that the coming pastor and his family will be surrendered to the Lord in adjusting their lives to God's calling and being obedient, believing the Lord is in control.

September 24 | Joshua 6:1-5

Pray that we believers will not stop short of prayer and the pursuit of God's assignment and His accomplishing a mighty work.

September 25 | Acts 9:1-19

Pray that none will refuse to make the adjustments we are called to do and miss what God has in store for our church and individual lives.

September 26 | John 17:3

Pray that the people of First Baptist will learn that prayer is a relationship, not simply a religious activity.

September 27 | Matthew 9:20-22

Pray that what we believe about God will not be limited by human reasoning but that we will have the courage to step out in faith as the body of Christ.

September 28 | Matthew 4:18-22

Pray that the coming pastor and his family will be given the grace to make the necessary adjustments in all spheres of their lives that are required in coming to First Baptist, including circumstances and relationships.

September 29 | John 5:17

May God work through all the circumstances in the coming pastor's life to reveal what He is doing, confirming what He is doing through Scripture.

September 30 | Luke 14:33

Even though the Lord may not call us to sacrifice everything, may we each be willing to do whatever He requires of us and make major adjustments to advance the Kingdom.



Save the date!

CALLING WOMEN OF ALL AGES!
MARK OCTOBER 15 ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR A
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.
MORE DETAILS TO COME!

LET'S PLAY PICKLEBALL!



**FBC MURRAY
FAMILY LIFE CENTER
301 S. 4TH ST., MURRAY KY**



SENIOR ADULTS: MONDAYS | 9:00-11:00 AM

ADVANCED PLAYERS: MONDAYS | 6:00 PM

BEGINNER/NOVICE PLAYERS: TUESDAYS | 6:00 PM

all players must be 18+ years old

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.

The need is greater than ever with the rising cost of food!

Sign up at fbcmurray.org/serve!

Blessing Box

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

Emily Bailey joined by Profession of Faith/Baptism on Sunday, August 7.
Owen Riddle joined by Profession of Faith/Baptism on Sunday, August 7.
Thomas Renick joined by Profession of Faith/Baptism on Sunday, August 7.
Bruce Macarthur joined by Profession of Faith/Baptism on Sunday, August 14.
Will Burkeen joined by Profession of Faith/Baptism on Sunday, August 21.

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.

- **September 7:** Sloppy Joe's
- **September 14:** Chicken Cacciatore
- **September 21:** Poppyseed Chicken
- **September 28:** Meatloaf

RADIO/TV

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

CHURCH INFORMATION

FINANCES (AS OF JULY 31, 2022)

\$ 854,453.00	Budgeted as of 07/31/2022
\$ 784,735.52	Budget Receipts as of 07/31/2022
\$ 825,837.40	Budget Expenditures as of 07/31/2022
\$ 161,702.00	WMO 2022 Goal
\$ 44,327.35	WMO Receipts as of 07/31/2022

MEMORIALS

Financial

Contributions to First Loves Murray have been received in memory of Janice Howe and Carolyn Palmer, sister of Beth White.

A contribution to the 2022 World Mission Offering has been received in honor of Martha Moore's 90th birthday.

VAN DRIVER

The van driver for the month of September 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

10:30 am Service

July 24	306
July 31	308
August 7	412
August 14	435
August 21	451

