



F P C T I D I N G S

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 260 W McLaughlin Ave  
 PO BOX 568  
 Madisonville KY 42431  
 270-821-6426

SPECIAL  
 DATES OF  
 INTEREST:

- Pentecost, June 5, 2022
- Trinity Sunday, June 12, 2022
- Flag Day, June 14, 2022
- Father's Day, June 19, 2022
- First day of summer, June 21, 2022

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SPRINGTIME IN KENTUCKY

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.” 1 Peter 1:1-2 NIV

“What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding; The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming. That's how it is with God's love; Once you've experienced it, you want to sing, “It's fresh like spring”; You want to pass it on.” Kurt Kaiser, 1969 Don't you love the beauty of the Kentucky springtime? It's almost as if God has taken the drab canvas of winter and splattered it with a million colors. First the crocus, forsythia, and pear trees; then the red-buds, jonquils, and dogwoods; and now the azaleas, tulips, irises, roses, and hundreds of other

flowers. My wife loves to play in the dirt, especially when it comes to caring for flowers and shrubs. Over the years she has learned which plants need more shade and which ones need more sun; which ones need more water and which ones don't need soaking; which ones need more acid soil and which ones do better when the pH is higher; and on and on. She has also learned which ones need pruning or dividing in order to live and grow. The new growth and colors in the spring remind me of the rebirth that we Christians should pray for daily. Each day we need the Holy Spirit to trim away more of our self-centeredness in order for us to become more Christ-centered. This is the process of Sanctification of which Peter spoke – dying a bit more each day to self in order to be reborn more Christ-like. It's the process of maturing as a Christian. Through our practices of prayer, study, worship, and Christian action the Holy Spirit is able to prune, shape, and



mold us into the image of Jesus. Of course, we'll never get there in this life, but we're called to walk the path. This process of pruning to become more Christ-like is obviously not pain free, but necessary if we are to bear the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness. So as we enjoy the beautiful Kentucky springtime, let it remind us that we too are to be reborn, not only each spring, but each and every day a little more in the likeness of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Pass it on.



## ISAIAH 43:18 &amp; 19 IS ALIVE AND WELL TODAY!

In view of the economic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions around us, we are tempted to “play God” and depend on ourselves. Like Israel under captivity, we are prone to either fight our own battles or resign to our own fate. But God tells us otherwise. He is a God of new things. He wants to make all things new. He wants to realign our hearts with His. God is calling us to look to Him, not at our circumstances, and to focus on our freedom in Christ.

Although there is a time and place to recollect past events to glean its wisdom, we don't stay there. Don't expect past victories to sustain us. The past is a great place to learn from but it's a terrible place to live in. Some of us hang on to our baggage (unresolved issues, failures, and negativity) for too long. Learn from them and let them go! If we live in the past, we will never embrace the future God has in store for us.

The question we must ask ourselves then is, “What is

God saying to us today?” In 2 Corinthians 5:17, He gives us the answer, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” This is the heart of the Gospel! Our past failures, brokenness and pain no longer define us, condemn us or rule over us. We are a completely new creation, and we have a new Spirit living in us! Be vigilant that our ears do not itch for new fads or experiences that count for nothing. We must be careful when God brings newness that we don't err and work against it by giving glory to the “new thing” and not to God. God is saying “I'm doing something new in your life now. Can you see it or discern it? If you don't, how will you remain in step with the Holy Spirit?”

God has a fresh start for us. Let's anticipate Him doing something great. When we do, He promises to remove all obstacles of coming to Him. (See Romans 8:31-39, a counterpart of Isaiah 43:18-19) Whatever may be holding us back —

wrong thinking, past mistakes, failed relationships — Jesus Christ has already died for them. We are no longer under their control. Jesus is our way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. He will transform our desert into fields of blessings and our wasteland into gardens of abundance! Let us therefore join God's great and new things while we put Christ first in our time, our talents, and our treasure.

Blessings,

Pastor Pete

## CELEBRATING THE CHURCH'S BIRTHDAY



On Pentecost, we remember when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. As they gathered in Jerusalem 10 days after Jesus' ascension, they saw tongues of fire, heard rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. Because the disciples could then share the good news with all the pilgrims assembled for the Pentecost festival, the occasion marks the birthday of the Christian church.

That day alone, about 3,000 people devoted their lives to Christ.

Like the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is important and relevant today. As theologian Henri Nouwen writes, “Without Pentecost the Christ-event — the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think

about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now.”

**THE CHURCH HIVE**

Bees live in a cooperative way described as "eusociality," or good relations. Each bee contributes a specific skill to the colony, synchronizing its efforts for the benefit of all. Likewise, a church's health depends on all members fulfilling their responsibility to the organism as a whole. Descriptions of hive life mirror Paul's words about the body of Christ, with members having different gifts "but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4).

According to R.S. Beal Jr.,

who was both a pastor and a zoology professor, a beehive is the perfect "living illustration of how to walk in unity." He wrote, "Those of us who have believed in Jesus belong to one another just as much as we belong to Christ. We cannot live independently of one another anymore than we can live independently of Christ. Like the bees, we must learn to practice the sacrifice, labor, sharing, and submission of love that together we 'may

grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (Ephesians 4:15, KJV). How are you using your own spiritual gifts to build up your church "hive"?



**APRIL FINANCES AT A GLANCE 2022**

YTD

Income	\$10,064.40	YTD Income	\$106,382.07
Expense	<u>-\$19,232.06</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$82,892.64</u>
Net	-\$9,167.66	YTD Net	\$23,489.43

Undesignated

Income	\$7,907.41	YTD Undesignated Income	\$86,909.17
Expense	<u>-\$17,055.38</u>	YTD Undesignated Expense	<u>-\$72,318.14</u>
Net	-\$9,147.97	YTD Undesignated Net	\$14,591.03

Designated

Income	\$2,156.99	YTD Designated Income	\$19,472.90
Expense	<u>-\$2,176.68</u>	YTD Designated Expense	<u>-\$10,574.50</u>
Net	\$19.69	YTD Designated Net	\$8,898.40

Operating Funds

Beginning Balance	\$173,300.36
Ending Balance	\$165,671.29
Investment Account	\$203,849.44

# JUNE

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |      |                            |      |                           |
|------|----------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 4th  | Lance & Brenda Millard (A) | 24th | Brooks & Anna Leasure (A) |
| 6th  | Teresa Griffith            | 26th | Sean & Kari McCance (A)   |
|      | James Cope                 | 28th | Larry Wilson              |
| 7th  | Doug Henley                | 30th | Cierra Brown              |
|      | Mike Petri                 |      |                           |
| 12th | Julie Major                |      |                           |
| 15th | Craig & Shari Winstead (A) |      |                           |
|      | Lisa Evans                 |      |                           |
| 16th | Carolyn Hunt               |      |                           |
| 18th | Mike & Ann Hofmann (A)     |      |                           |
| 20th | Brenda Millard             |      |                           |
| 22nd | Ann Hofmann                |      |                           |



# June 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion/ Pentecost Sunday	6	7 6PM Session Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Happy Father's Day	20	21 First Day of Summer	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		