

F P C T I D I N G S

NOVEMBER 2021



November

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

First Presbyterian Church
260 W. McLaughlin Ave
Madisonville KY 42431
270-821-6426
Service Times:
10:15 AM Worship Service
In the Sanctuary
See Calendar on Back for more

We are pleased to be able to host the Presbytery of Western Kentucky for its November 9 meeting. The Presbytery will meet from 10:00-3:00 in our sanctuary. We will need some help in preparing and serving lunch, as well as directing people from the parking lot into the church for registration. If you would like to help as we host the Presbytery, just let the church office know.

Thanksgiving Sunday will be recognized on Sunday, November 21. Join us as we give thanks to God for all of the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us.

November also brings us the First Sunday of Advent! November 28 will be the beginning of our Advent season as we march toward to joy of Christmas Day.

All Saints' Day is November 1 and we will also recognize this day on Sunday, November 7. Let us remember the saints of the church that have passed on before us into eternal life. It is their commitment to Jesus Christ and the sacrifices that they have made that gives us shoulders to stand upon.

If you get the chance to walk down the hallways in our church, you will notice that

some of our bulletin boards have been updated. Thanks so much to those who have kept these bulletin boards updated!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

- Facebook Public Page—[newfpc](#)
- Twitter—[@newfpc](#)
- Instagram—[@new_fpc](#)
- Website—[www.newfpc.com](#)
- YouTube Channel—[newfpc](#)

THE SUBVERSIVE TABLE

"The Lord's Supper [is] a profoundly subversive political event in the lives of the participants," writes Richard Beck in *Unclean*. "The sacrament brings real people — divided in the larger world — into a sweaty, intimate, flesh-and-blood embrace where 'there shall be no difference between them and the rest.'" Beck is quoting Walt Whitman, for whom "them" refers to "the wicked and the righteous."

In our day, I think of political conservatives and liberals who receive equally the grace of God through

Christ's body and blood. I think of the man in a church I pastored, who took pride in stirring up controversy. I didn't like him. But at the Lord's table, though "divided in the larger world," we shared a sacrament with no difference between us.

I think of my former parish near an Air Force base. Many members were military personnel and surely knew one another's rank. But in church — at the conference table, the dinner table and especially the communion table — no difference

existed between a colonel and a captain, a commissioned officer and an NCO. It was a beautiful example of God's kingdom subverting the world's tendency to divide.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

UNITY IS A STATE OF ONENESS AND HARMONY

All believers in Christ are united in Christ. We are in a relationship that unites us with Him and with every other believer.

Jesus prayed for His disciples, all who would believe in Him for all the ages, “that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you” ([John 17:21](#)). Some look at the great divisions among Christian denominations and refer to this as Christ’s great “unanswered prayer.” However, Scripture is clear that all believers are united with Christ because of our relationship with Him and with all other believers. We are all in the same family, even if at times we do not act like it. Therefore, unity in Christ has two aspects—one is objective fact, and one is subjective experience.

Objective and subjective unity can be true for any number of groups, teams, or even families. All the members of a football team are unified by their membership in the group. They do not win or lose games individually. The individuals contribute to the group, but it is the group that wins or loses—that is the objective fact. However, there may be times that the team does not act in a unified way. Selfishness and rivalry may creep up, and, when it does, it is impossible for the team to act as a unit—this is the subjective aspect. The behavior of individuals on the team is not matching the fact of their unity with every other member of the team.

All who believe in Christ are part of [His body](#), the church. The New Testament is clear on this. [Ephesians 5:30](#) says it plainly: “For we are members of his body.” Whether a Christian feels like it or not, he or she is part of Christ’s body and therefore unified with every other believer. Paul uses the analogy of the body in [1 Corinthians 12:12–21](#):

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

The human body is a unified whole. If one part does not work right, the whole body suffers. If a person smashes his thumb with a hammer, it is not just the thumb in isolation that hurts. Other parts of the body may hurt, too, and the functioning of the whole body is

impaired. This is true even when a person does not know about the malfunctioning part. If an internal organ is not functioning properly, damage may be done to the body before any pain or obvious illness is present.

In the same way, the church has unity in Christ. As part of His body, each member has a particular job to do and a place to belong. When any individual member is not fulfilling his or her purpose in the body, the whole body suffers. All the members are united, and because of that unity, when one acts in an individualistic or selfish manner (i.e., acts as if he is not part of the body), the whole body suffers because, regardless of his actions, the individual member is still in unity with all the others in the body.

Many of the commands in the New Testament direct Christians to live up to their position and demonstrate their unity in Christ. Christians are not commanded to become one in Christ—that is already an objective reality. Christians are told to make their subjective experience match the objective fact. Paul pleads with the Philippians for this kind of unity: “Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” ([Philippians 2:1–4](#)). If Christians, who are members of the same team, see themselves in competition with each other, then they are not playing as teammates. They are not living in light of the unity that exists.

Unity in Christ means that all believers are in a relationship with Christ and, by extension, to every other believer. All believers are united with each other whether they know it or not, like it or not, or feel like it or not. The challenge of Christian unity is to live up to the truth of that reality. Since we are all members of one body, we need to live like it. This means subordinating our individual needs to the needs of the body at large and using our individual gifts for the good of the whole body.

Unity in Christ does not mean that all differences between churches or denominations need to be abolished. Individual churches and denominations can keep their individual distinctives and

emphases while still working together in areas where they agree. For instance, an evangelical Baptist church and an evangelical Presbyterian church will be in agreement on the gospel and the essentials of the faith, but because of different beliefs about baptism, it would be impossible for these two churches to simply unite as one church. It might be possible for a church to take a neutral position on [infant baptism](#); however, it is hard to see how a church could teach that parents *should* baptize their babies (as do Presbyterian churches) and simultaneously teach that parents *should not* baptize their babies (as in Baptist churches). While these two groups could never unite as a single local church or denomination, they can still cooperate in other ministry endeavors, and individuals within each local body can fellowship with and love each other.

This is from: Got Questions, Biblical Answers, GotQuestions.org. - Pete Phelan

HOME SWEET HOME

A man who resided near the border of two states had been told for years his house was in Minnesota. But when a new survey revealed that he actually lived in Wisconsin, he proclaimed, "Thank goodness! I never could bear those cold Minnesota winters."

Defining where we live certainly affects our attitude. Followers of Jesus, or saints, consider their

true home to be in God's dynamic presence. St. Paul was so connected to God through prayer that mystical experiences left him not knowing whether he was in or out of his body (see 2 Corinthians 12:1-10). Living with one foot in heaven and the other on the way there, Paul could know peace. "Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's," he concludes

(Romans 14:8). Christian saints who are still living on earth can rest assured: Our true home is always with the Lord.



SEPTEMBER FINANCES AT A GLANCE

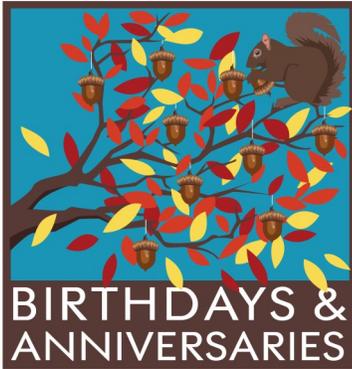
		YTD	
Income	\$17,437.60	YTD Income	\$222,830.18
Expense	<u>-\$35,555.94</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$255,131.87</u>
Net	-\$18,118.34	YTD Net	-\$32,301.69

Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$13,091.60	Income	\$172,286.37
Expense	<u>-\$24,828.30</u>	Expense	<u>-\$192,468.76</u>
Net	-\$11,736.70	Net	-\$20,182.39

Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$4,346.00	Income	\$50,543.81
Expense	<u>-\$10,727.64</u>	Expense	<u>-\$62,663.11</u>
Net	-\$6,381.64	Net	\$12,119.30

Operating Funds	
Beginning Balance	\$128,262.53
Ending Balance	\$121,015.64
Investment Account	\$211,038.31

NOVEMBER



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

3rd	Jim Agin	24th	Mike Hofmann
6th	Lance Millard	25th	Becky Moore
12th	James & Glori Cope (A)	26th	Connie Conover
14th	Ruth Hendrix	27th	Erlene Ewing
17th	Kari McCance		
19th	Daniel Carter		
20th	John Bushong		
21st	Janet McClain		
22nd	Luanne Cole		

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		1:30 Bible Study 6:00 PM Session	5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study			
7 Communion Sunday 	8	9	10	11	12	13
		10AM Presbytery Mtg 1:30 Bible Study	5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	*Shoebox Drop off	1:30 Bible Study	5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study	→		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		1:30 Bible Study				
28	29	30	*Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Drop Off: November 14-21			
Ice Cream Sunday		1:30 Bible Study	Monday thru Friday 5-8PM, Saturday 10AM-4PM, Sunday Noon til 5PM			