



More Than a Meeting By Mid-Kentucky Presbytery's Interim Stated Clerk, Jenny Hockenberry

When I was a kid, my parents would randomly ask my siblings and I, "On a scale of 1-10, how good are we doing as parents?" Truthfully, I have incredible parents, but both are Presbyterian ministers, so it should come as no surprise when I share that my response to them was something along the lines of, "you're at like a 7 or 8 because you have too many meetings."

Presbyterians have a lot of meetings. As your Interim Stated Clerk, I confess that there have been times when I, too, wanted to skip the presbytery meeting and do just about anything else (maybe the real confession is that I've definitely skipped a meeting to do something else).

Presbytery meetings can sometimes feel like a tedious to-do list that seems to rarely knock anything off our personal to-do lists. It can sometimes feel like dull repetition of motions, seconds, and votes. But something much deeper is taking place, something integral to who we are as a community, who we are as Presbyterians. A presbytery meeting is not simply about conducting business. It is about living out the mission of the Church together. A presbytery meeting is not separate from ministry - it *is* ministry.

The Book of Order reminds us in F-1.0304 that the Church exists for specific purposes—what we call the *Great Ends of the Church: proclaiming the gospel, nurturing the faithful, maintaining worship, preserving truth, promoting justice, and bearing witness to God's kingdom.*

When ministers and ruling elders gather as a presbytery, they come together as a council of the Church to seek and represent the will of Christ. This means that every report, every conversation, and every decision is connected to those Great Ends. When we hear ministry updates, we are participating in the proclamation of the gospel. When we welcome new ministers or care for congregations, we are engaging in the nurture and fellowship of God's people. When we begin and end in prayer or worship, we uphold the maintenance of divine worship. When we discern carefully and speak truthfully, we contribute to the preservation of the truth. When we address mission, justice, and community impact, we join in the promotion of social righteousness. And in all things, we seek to exhibit and bear witness to God's kin-dom

The agenda is not just a to-do list—it is a reflection of the Church's calling.

Because this work is so important, we rely on shared practices to guide us. Using Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised and our constitutional commitments, we seek to do all things "decently and in order." This kind of order is not about rigidity—it is about making space for faithful discernment. It ensures that all voices have the opportunity to be heard, decisions are made clearly and transparently, and the body can move forward together, even when there is disagreement.

So the next time you find yourself in a presbytery meeting, remember - this is more than procedure, this is more than governance. This is the Church seeking to proclaim, nurture, worship, preserve, promote, and witness - decently, in order, and together.

A few simple practices to help us gather faithfully, speak graciously, and discern well:

- **Begin with prayerful attentiveness** Come ready not just to speak, but to listen—for one another and for the Spirit.
- **Speak through the Moderator** This keeps conversation clear, respectful, and centered on the whole body.
- **Wait to be recognized** It ensures that all voices have space and that conversation remains orderly.
- **Stay focused on the motion** Keep comments relevant so the body can move toward clarity and decision.
- **Speak clearly and briefly** Make room for others; trust that shared wisdom is better than any one voice.
- **Listen with openness, not just response** Discernment happens when we truly hear one another.
- **Assume good intentions** Even in disagreement, remember we are all seeking Christ's will together.
- **Use the process as a guide, not a barrier** Following Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised helps us participate fairly and faithfully.
- **Respect the role of the Moderator** They are there to guide the body with clarity, care, and neutrality.
- **Be mindful of time and the whole body** Your contribution matters—and so does everyone else's.
- **Embrace both patience and trust** Good decisions take time; the process serves the community.
- **Lead with grace** Our goal is not just to decide, but to reflect Christ in how we decide.

"Please God, Give Me Air".

Those are the last words I remember saying after whispering, "I can't breathe...I can't breathe." The air that came was the purest, sweetest, most delicious air I have ever tasted. I believe the spirit of God gave me breath and gave the medical team expertise to save my life (after a heart attack). I'm home and trying to find my new daily paces. Still weak, but happy to be alive. The good news is there is nothing wrong with my heart; a little rehab will mend it. The bad news is more treatment and medical care for my kidneys and bladder are my new agenda. Additionally, Carl and I are so very grateful to Circle 2 for the wonderful foods; and for the many cards, flowers, and texts praying for me. Thank you everyone so, so much. Also, our travel itinerary was interrupted and needed fixing. It is another story all by itself, sometimes very funny and sometimes unexpectedly interesting. Carl will be better retelling that tale.

Love, *Toni and Carl*

Thank you!



Interfaith Food Drive-June 14

Items most needed:

- ▮ Canned chicken or Meat, Peanut Butter
- ▮ Boxed Instant Oatmeal, Soup,
- ▮ Canned Fruit, Spaghetti Sauce/Spaghetti ,
- ▮ Canned Beans, Rice (1 lb. bag or Minute Rice)
- ▮ If you prefer to donate money, you may make a check out to the

Emergency Community Food Pantry

Or donate at

<http://www.frankfortfoodpantry.org>.

Events and Activities

Tuesday, May 19 The Lunch Bunch

12:00 ... Longhorn Steak House

Wednesday, May 20

10:30 ... SFPC Staff Meeting

6:00 ... **Wednesday Night Dinner**

7:00 ... Choir

Sunday, May 24 Communion

10:00 ... Counterpoints & Faith in Action SS Adult Classes

10:00 ... Children's & Middle School SS Classes

11:00 ... In person & Facebook Worship Service, Rev. Marissa Carver

5:00 ... Youth Group

Wednesday, May 27

7:00 ... Choir

Sunday, May 31

10:00 ... Counterpoints & Faith in Action SS Adult Classes

10:00 ... Children's & Middle School SS Classes

11:00 ... In person & Facebook Worship Service, Rev. Marissa Carver

6:00 ... Frankfort High Baccalaureate (No Youth Group)

Monday, June 1 "Stock the Shelves"

9:00 ... A sign up sheet for volunteering to stock the shelves at the Emergency Food Pantry is on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

2:00 ... Bridge

4:30 ... Knitting

Monday, June 1-Thursday, June 4 Adult Bible School

6:00 ... A light meal will be served before the lesson at 6:30.

Tuesday, June 2

12:00 ... Circle 3, Kay Robertson's Home

3:30 ... Circle 2

Wednesday, June 3

7:00 ... Choir

Saturday, June 13-Saturday, June 20 Montreat Youth Trip

Growing in Faith Together This Summer:

Christian Education Committee is excited to kick off a meaningful and joy-filled summer with two engaging Vacation Bible School (VBS) opportunities for both adults and children.

The season begins with Adult VBS, taking place June 1st-4th. This year's theme, "What God Has to Say to Us in the 21st Century," will be led by Jerry Sumney. Each evening will start with a light supper from 6:00-6:30 p.m., followed by a thoughtful discussion and session from 6:30-7:30 p.m. This promises to be an inspiring time of reflection, learning, and connection. All members and friends are encouraged to attend and be part of this enriching experience.

Following Adult VBS, the church will host its Children's VBS: "River of Life" from June 22nd-25th, 5:00-7:00 p.m. each evening. Dinner and snacks will be provided, making it easy for families to participate. Each day will focus on a meaningful theme:

- Day 1: God Provides
- Day 2: God Protects
- Day 3: God Loves, We Love
- Day 4: Closing celebration with a fun activity



Children will enjoy a welcoming environment filled with faith, friendship, and fun while learning about God's love and care in their lives.

We encourage families to send their children, and to invite friends, neighbors, and others who may be interested. It's a wonderful opportunity to build community, grow in faith, and celebrate the start of summer together.

We hope to see you all this summer!!! *Jill Stoltz*

It's that time again! We hope your child will join us on the **River of Life** at South Frankfort Presbyterian Church **Vacation Bible School**. This year we will be learning about how God's love, like a river, flows through us and into our community. We will be making connections and hearing from experts on the importance of water and how to keep it clean. This four-day event will begin Monday, June 22nd with a River Boat ride on Thursday, June 25th. Monday through Wednesday children will be dropped off at the main entrance of the church on Steele St and picked up in the fellowship hall on Third St. On Thursday, we will meet at the Ward Oates Amphitheater and walk to the Paul Sawyer Library boat dock. More details on logistics for Thursday will be communicated later. We look forward to seeing your child, it will be a fun time! **Please complete the registration form** by clicking on the link below: For more information or questions please contact Jill Stoltz at jill_hntr@yahoo.com or 502-330-2423.

https://docs.google.com/forms/de/1FAIpQLSeUS_9ID3SwNsTRXvCsgkjJuKHA3FpkimiwvqbrPQeHEXyMqw/viewform?usp=header

Worship Sunday

Attendance: **May 17, 2026**

SFPC in person: **72**

Join us Sundays - 11:00 a.m., also online service.

During our live streaming time, you can go to

YouTube: [youtube.com/@southfrankfortpresbyterian8198](https://www.youtube.com/@southfrankfortpresbyterian8198) or to **Facebook:** [facebook.com/sfpcchurch](https://www.facebook.com/sfpcchurch)

The next week, you may go to www.sfpcy.org, the church's website and click "YouTube" or "Facebook" at the bottom right corner of the website to

If not in the service, please consider donating one of two ways:

1. Mail a check to: South Frankfort Presbyterian Church 224 Steele Street, Frankfort, KY 40601.

2. Click the green "Give Now" button on our website at sfpcy.org. You can start and manage your account, and even set up repeating donations.



May 17, 2026

Offering: \$2627.00

Prayer List

Helen Taulbee	Glenda Harned
Jackie Hensley	Jane Wilson
Bill Cheek	Ann Disney
Patti Cross	Christine Richards
Alice Delambre	Carolynn Underwood
Marcella Diehl	Nancey Belle Smith
Presley Winner	Brad Wirth
Dale Bryant	Toni Lewis

Names remain on the Prayer List for four weeks unless the request is long term. To add or retain people with their permission, email or call the church office.

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Robert Bryan

Bill Cheek

In Memory of Jo Ann Sharfe

Bill Cheek

Happy May Birthdays!

- May 4 Lucas Ritter**
- May 6 Karen Brady**
- May 9 Tierelee Logan**
- May 10 Anna Curlin**
- May 12 Christy Brock**
- May 16 Nancey Belle Smith**
- May 17 Jim Roberts**
- May 19 Njomi Bebe**
- May 19 Kim Fern**
- May 25 Matthew Harned**
- May 25 Wood Smith**
- May 30 Stephen Taylor**



We are working on a church directory and we need your help!

___ Please check one of the sample directory copies from the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

___ If all your information is correct, **place a √ next to your name.**

___ **Please update any inaccurate information and write it next to your name.** You may also send corrections to cyndysusan.sfpc@gmail.com.