

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We are glad to have you worship with us today. We are practicing safer worship together, following COVID-19 protocols for in-person gatherings. Please observe the following.



**WEAR A
FACE MASK**



**DON'T SHAKE
HANDS**



**KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE**



**WASH YOUR
HANDS**

Childcare: All children are welcome in our service. Parents please keep your children with you or at the activity tables. Our nursery is currently closed.

Communion: Our communion is open to all who seek to follow in the way of Jesus. Our communion cups are filled with grape juice and the wafers are gluten free.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Jan. 23	10:45 AM	Second Sunday after Epiphany worship
	12:00 PM	Blessing of the Prayer Chalice slips Newsletter articles due.
Jan. 24	6:30/7PM	Executive/Full Board Meetings
Jan. 25	7:00 PM	Women of the Bible Study on Zoom
Jan. 26	5:00 PM	Bell Choir rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
Jan. 27	7:00 PM	Vespers (Zoom)

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD

227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY, 40351

phone: 606.784.4836
email: fccmky@gmail.com
www.fccmorehead.org

THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Epiphany - the revealing of God in everyday, ordinary lives and in the unexpected corners of our world. During the season of Epiphany we look for the Light of the World pushing through the shadows and finding its way into our lives.



Sunday Morning in Old Virginia, Winslow Homer, 1887
Cincinnati Art Museum, public domain

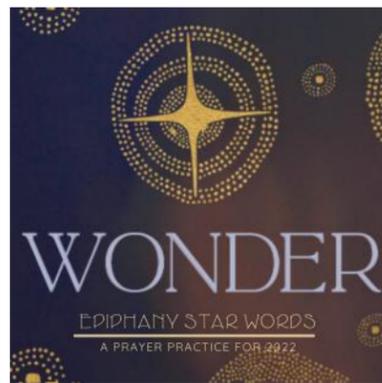
WE ARE DISCIPLES

We are Disciples....
 We prepare God's table for all,
 as it was prepared for us.
 We embrace the old,
 the heartsick,
 the outcast,
 the different.
 We believe Love wins....

Minister Rev. Nancy Gowler
 Music Director:..... Genny Jenkins
 Pianist Isaiah Florence
 Liturgist: Susan Whidden
 Elder:..... Anne Buckner
 Greeter: Leeann Akers
 Audio/Visual Team Ethan Jenkins, Wiley Tanner

STAR WORDS FOR EPIPHANY

Inspired by the story of the Magi following a star, the practice of star words for Epiphany has become a common Christian prayer practice for a new year. Star words can serve as a guide, one more way to discover God in our world, dwelling alongside us.



You may pick out a star word by the front entrance to the sanctuary near the elevator. There are optional weekly emails with reflection questions and prayer prompts to aid in your own spiritual discernment. You may sign up there to receive these weekly prayer guides.

Acknowledgement of Land

For thousands of years, First People have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Shawnee, Cherokee, and Osage people, past, present, and emerging, and we acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday after Epiphany

**indicates the congregation stands in body and/or spirit*

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Welcome Rev. Nancy Gowler

Bell of Mindfulness Susan Whidden

Prelude *Many Gifts, One Spirit* (Allen Pote) Genny Jenkins

*Call to Worship Susan Whidden

Come one, come all,
come together in this sacred moment to worship God.

**We come to listen for God’s teachings,
for the Lord’s directions are sure.**

Ready your hearts to give praise to God.

**We rejoice in the Holy One’s ways;
for God’s commandments are clear and the Lord’s judgements
are true.**

Come with holy anticipation—
**for the Spirit brings life and wisdom,
stirring our hearts and opening our eyes.**

Come — let us worship God.

**Let the words of our mouths and the whispering of our hearts
be according to your will, O God.**

*Opening Prayer Susan Whidden

*Song of Prayer *Let’s Sing unto the Lord* #60

Prayers of Confession and Assurance Rev. Nancy Gowler

Forgive us Lord, when we make promises that we cannot keep.

Forgive us Lord, when our words do not match our actions.

Forgive us Lord, when our good intentions lack sincerity.

**Forgive us Lord, when our vision statements and creeds become
just words on a page. God of new beginnings, faithful promises,
biblical agendas, sound words, real intentions, endless visions,
renew us. May your Spirit be our hope and inspiration today and
every day. Amen.**

Song Of Preparation *Listen to the Word*

Musical notation for the first line of the song: *lis - ten to the word which God has spo - ken;*

Musical notation for the second line of the song: *lis - ten to the One who is close at hand;*

Musical notation for the third line of the song: *lis - ten to the voice be - hind cre - a - tion;*

Musical notation for the fourth line of the song: *lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.*

SACRED STORIES

Scripture Reading Psalm 19 Susan Whidden

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

Anthem *Anthem* (Tom Conry) Choir

Gospel Reading Nehemiah 8:1:4a, 5-6, 8-12 Rev. Nancy Gowler

Heavenly words for earthly people.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon *From Tears to Joy* Rev. Nancy Gowler

RESPONDING TO GOD’S STORY

*Song of Response *I Cannot Dance, O Love* #290

Prayers of the People Susan Whidden

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion Rev. Nancy Gowler

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**
....All are welcome at Christ’s table.

Everyone is welcome at Christ’s table.

Words of Institution Rev. Nancy Gowler

Communion Prayer Anne Buckner

The Sharing

Communion Meditation Genny Jenkins

*Benediction Rev. Nancy Gowler

*Choral Response *Let There Be Peace on Earth* #677

*Postlude *Let’s Sing unto the Lord* Genny Jenkins

OUR PRAYERS

World Council of Churches ecumenical prayer calendar:

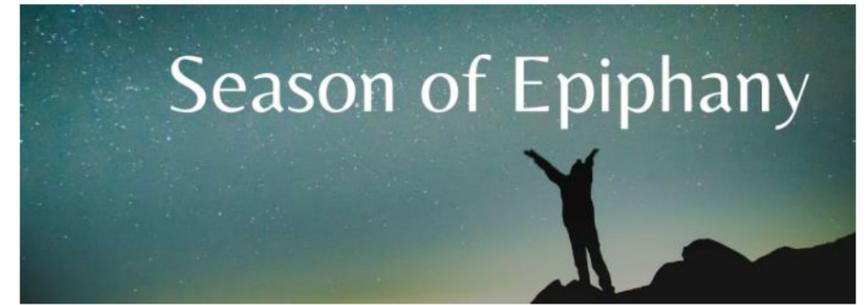
Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

For those who desire our prayers:

The family and friends of Carlos Hill, David Embry, Katie Parker, Tiffany Buckner Sholar, Ronni Gilpin, Amanda Baldwin, Ben Webb, Cate Cook, Elwood Caudill Sr., Maggie Miles, Ned Breschel, Hedy Caldwell, Eva Johnston

Prayer concerns and joys may be shared with the office.

**Concerns will be posted
for two weeks only unless otherwise requested.**



AT HOME FOR FAMILIES

READ: A long time ago the city of Jerusalem was destroyed in a war. Many of the Jewish people were taken from their homes and forced to live in a country far away. The people were very sad. Later their descendants returned home and began to rebuild their city. It was hard work and took a long time. In the book of Nehemiah we have a story of what happened after both the Temple and the protective wall around the city were rebuilt. Ezra the priest stood and read to them from the ancient book of Moses, words from the Bible they had not heard in a long time.

And they read from the book, from the Book of God’s Teaching, expounding and giving reasons, and they explained what was read. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and the Levites, explaining to the people, said to all the people, “Today is holy for you to the LORD your God. Do not mourn and do not weep,” for they were weeping when they heard the words of the Teaching. And he said to them, “Go, eat delicacies and drink sweet drinks and send portions to whoever has non prepared, for the day is holy to our Master, and do not be sad, for the rejoicing of the LORD is your strength.”

--Nehemiah 8:8-10 (*The Hebrew Bible*)

WONDER: I wonder how it felt when they returned to their city and it was in ruins?

I wonder what was most important to build back?

I wonder how it felt when the wall around the city was finished?

I wonder why the people cried when Ezra read from the book of Moses?

I wonder what part of this story you like the best?

SAY: The good news is the Bible gives us stories about how much God loves us.

PRAY: Let’s pray. Dear God, thank you for the Bible, for the stories of people who try to live in your ways, building communities of peace and love. Help us to fill our neighborhoods with your peace. Amen.

EXTEND

- This story from Nehemiah is set during what is now known as the high Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the Festival of Booths. What do you know about these special days? Visit www.reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/rosh-hashanah to learn more about Rosh Hashanah.
- How does our congregation read and listen to the bible? Look at the bulletin and notice if there is anything special we do when scripture is read.
- Read *When Zaydeh Danced on Eldridge Street* by Elsa Okon Rael. Illustrated by majorie Priceman. Simon & Schuster Book for Young Readers, 1997.