

Welcome to worship!

We are glad to have you worship with us today. We practice safer worship together, following COVID-19 protocols for in-person gatherings, which may be adjusted as the situation in our area changes.

Currently our county is experiencing low levels of COVID transmission. The wearing of masks indoors is optional, but always acceptable and welcome.

Childcare: All children are welcome in our service. Parents please keep your children with you. Our nursery (2nd floor) is open at 10:30am for ages 0-4 years of age.

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Oct. 9	2:00-4:00 PM	Youth Reunion, Sawstone Brewery, 2nd Fl.
Oct. 10		Gateway basket items due for Homeless Shelter. Office closed. (Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day)
Oct. 11	7:00 PM	Women of the Bible study (Zoom)
Oct. 12	5:00/7:00 PM	Bell Choir/Choir rehearsal
Oct. 13	7:00 PM	Vespers Service (Zoom)
Oct. 15	9:30 AM	Firewood Ministry, Marge & Dan Thomas home

Prayer Slips. If you have a prayer request, you may use the slips found in the pew bibles and place in the Stone Chalice. They will be offered in the labyrinth cairn quarterly by the Prayer Ministry.

OUR PRAYERS

World Council of Churches ecumenical prayer calendar:

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

For those who desire our prayers:

The Spurrier Family, Frances Puckett, Ritta Abell, Cate Cook, Jasper Salinas-Hernández, Caitlyn Sholar, Ritta Abell, Leeann Leeann Akers, Layne Neeper, Dianna Pettit, Betty Miller, Lynn Moore, David Embry, Ronni Gilpin, 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.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD

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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/Organist Genny Jenkins
Keyboardist.....Jiyeon McGillicuddy
Interns.....Katie Webb, Maura McCoy, Mason Pack
Liturgist.....Sarah Chaney
Elder.....Anne Buckner
Greeter.....Dewayne Carter
Audio/Visual Team.....Ethan Jenkins, Wiley Tanner
Nursery Attendant.....Katrina Allman

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD

OCTOBER 9, 2022



October 9, 2022

Proper 23

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

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.

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Welcome Rev. Nancy Gowler
Bell of Mindfulness Sarah Chaney
Prelude Genny Jenkins
Call to Worship Sarah Chaney

We live in apartments, condos, and houses:
we live in town, and we live in the country.

Wherever we call home,

God calls on us to pray for the places in which we live.

We live in Morehead, Lakeview Heights, in Rowan County,
**along Triplett Creek, in the paths of the Sheltolee Trace, in
the woods of Daniel Boone National Forest.**

In faithfulness we pray for the wellbeing of the precious watershed
beneath our feet.

May our communities flourish,

and may all who live here walk in harmony with one another.

Opening Prayer Sarah Chaney

*Gathering Hymn *Alleluia! Hear God's Story* #330

Prayer of Confession and Assurance Rev. Nancy Gowler

Before God, with the people of God,
I confess to turning away from God
in the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

**Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to turning away from God
in the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.

SACRED STORIES

Scripture Readings Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Sarah Chaney

Listen now for Word and Wisdom
as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

Anthem *With a Voice of Singing* FCC Choir

Gospel Reading Luke 17:11-19 Rev. Nancy Gowler

Heavenly words for earthly people.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Welcome to the Neighborhood* Rev. Nancy Gowler

RESPONDING TO GOD'S STORY

*Song of Response *Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant* #490

Prayers of the People Sarah Chaney

Peacemaking God...**hear our 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.

Passing of the Peace Rev. Nancy Gowler

Peace be with you!

And also with you.

Invitation to Communion Anne Buckner

....All are welcome at Christ's table.

Everyone is welcome at Christ's table.

Communion Rev. Nancy Gowler

Communion Prayer Anne Buckner

The Sharing Rev. Nancy Gowler

Meditation Genny Jenkins

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Benediction Rev. Nancy Gowler

*Sung Response *We've Come This Far by Faith* #533

Postlude *Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant* Genny Jenkins



READ: The prophet Jeremiah wrote to people who had been forced to leave their homes and make a new life in a far-off land called Babylon. Jeremiah encouraged them to find goodness wherever they were and not to spend their lives wishing they were somewhere else. He wrote, "Build houses and make yourselves at home. Put in gardens and eat what grows where you live. Marry and have children. Raise your children and bless them as they create families of their own in this new country you live in. Make yourselves at home there. And make sure you do what you can to help that country thrive. And don't forget to pray for Babylon, too. When things go well for that country and its people, good things will come to you, too." ([Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7](#))

WONDER: I wonder how it felt for the people to leave their homes behind?

I wonder if you've ever had to move from a place you called home?

I wonder how it feels to move to a strange place?

I wonder what makes a place feel like home?

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for the place we call home. We pray for our neighbors, for those who help make our neighborhood safe, for those who care for us, and those who help make our neighborhood better. Help us be good neighbors, too. Amen.

EXTEND

- Using materials you have available (boxes, paper, glue, markers, crayons, etc.), design a home. As you create your design, talk about what makes a good house? What is necessary? What makes a home special? What sort of neighborhood does your designed home need? Add streets or other homes to your design as you imagine the neighborhood.
- Read the book [Blackout](#) by John Rocco. You can hear the author read the book on [YouTube](#). The power goes out in a city on a warm summer night. What do you do when the lights go out? The story follows one family as they discover ways of enjoying the sudden darkness. They find their neighbors on the rooftop watching the stars and out in the streets for an impromptu party. Have you ever found something beautiful in an unexpected situation?