

Welcome to worship!

We are glad to have you worship with us today for the **third Sunday in the Season of Creation.**

Childcare: All children are welcome in our service. Parents please keep your children with you. There are children's bulletins available at the entrances to the sanctuary and a worship activity center in the back. 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. Pick up a prepackaged communion cup with grape juice, available at either entrance to the sanctuary.

Offering: To contribute financially to the ministries of our congregation, gifts may be placed in the offering boxes at any entrance to the sanctuary. Visit our website for online giving options.

How to become a member: We are part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), welcoming all who seek to follow in the ways of Jesus. To learn more about us and how to join with this congregation, speak to Pastor Nancy. Look for upcoming Guest Gatherings to learn more about who we are and how to be a part of FCC Morehead.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sept. 19	7:00 PM	Women of the Bible (Zoom)
Sept. 20	5:00 PM	Bell Choir rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
Sept. 21	7:00 PM	Vespers Service (Zoom)
Sept. 24	10:45 AM	River Sunday, Worship at the Park (Season of Creation)

OUR PRAYERS

World Council of Churches ecumenical prayer calendar:

Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

For those who desire our prayers:

The family of Jim Duncan, Pam Hesler, Johnny Chafin, Walker Harris, Peggy Fleming, Ben McCormick, J. J. Balangie, Rex Chaney, Lola Smith, Maggie Miles, Helen Hall, Janelle Hare, Betty Miller, Gwinwood Christian Camp, Katie Parker, Helen Rowe, Tony Honeycutt, Jean and John Roberts, Cathy Thomas, Jim Gross, John Gullett, Tammy Sholberg, Jacob Morrill, Jim Fred Cassity, Brent Rogers, Joe Thompson, Eva Johnston, Frances Pucket, Mechelle Marshall, Ned Breschel, Hedy Caldwell.

Prayer concerns and joys may be shared with the office.

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

For those celebrating birthdays: Jackie Bailey (9/22)
Anne Buckner (9/23)

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD

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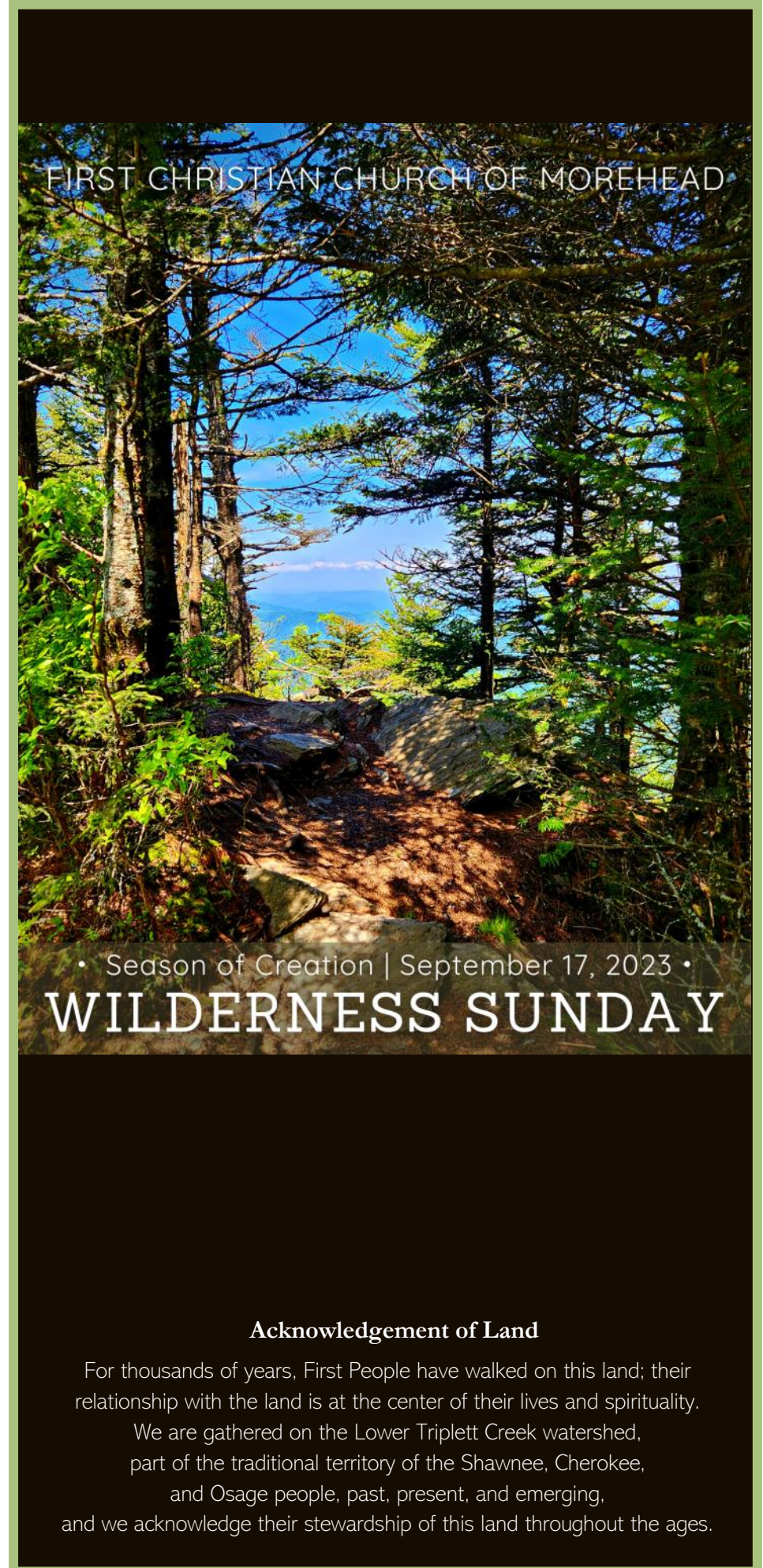


Resources: General liturgy: adapted from seasonofcreation.com and rexaehuntprogressivelgy.com, *A Wee Worship Book*, 4th Incarnation, © 1999, Wild Goose Worship Book; Music: *The Peace of the Earth*, ©1998 Iona Community / WGRG, OneLicense #A-739989

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
 Keyboardist Jiyeon McGillicuddy
 Guest Musician Sally Kelson, harpist
 Liturgist Roy Reynolds
 Elder Alana Scott
 Greeter Connie Kibbey
 Audio/Visual Team Ethan Jenkins, Braeden Trent
 Nursery Attendant Ellie Williams



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 Lower Triplett Creek watershed, part of 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.

September 17, 2023

Wilderness Sunday

*indicates the congregation stands in body and/or spirit

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Welcome	Rev. Nancy Gowler
Bell of Mindfulness	Roy Reynolds
Prelude	<i>With All My Heart</i> by Monika Stadler Sally Kelton
Call to Worship	Roy Reynolds

We invite the wilderness to worship with us:
**thickets and rugged terrain,
deep gorges
and mountain ranges.**

We invite the flora to sing in the sun:
**Pine tree and fern,
brush and thistle.**

We join with the fauna of the wilds in praising God:
**white-tailed deer and black bears,
spiders and hovering hawks.**

We invite the spirit of the wilderness
to join us in praise:
**songs from long ago
remembered deep in the rock,
spirits of life bubbling up
from ancient springs.**

We celebrate the song of the wilderness!
Sing, wild places, sing!

*Gathering Hymn	<i>When Morning Gilds the Skies</i>	100
Local Reading	<i>"Journey beyond the Hills"</i> by James Still	Leeann Potter <i>Creation Care member</i>
Prayer of Awareness		Roy Reynolds

SACRED STORIES

Remembering	Rev. Nancy Gowler
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... We remember the places
those we have visited and stayed awhile--
when we felt close to the Earth.
We remember and rejoice.

A Time of Confession	Rev. Nancy Gowler
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Divine Gardener, we remember and confess how we
have destroyed the wild domains of your creation.
**Christ, who withdrew to the wilderness for
times of prayer, we are sorry.**

We remember and confess how we have wounded
the wild places in your garden planet:

**We have poisoned the land with toxins,
the waters with harmful chemicals, stripping bare fragile
ecosystems, destroying habitats of wild creatures. We are sorry.**
(silence for reflection)

The Creator has formed us to be partners in creating,
stewards of the wilderness places of the Earth.

**As this day dawns in beauty,
we pledge ourselves to repair the Earth,
to tend the wounds of Creation,
and to care for this sanctuary we share with all our kin. Amen.**

Scripture Reading	Exodus 15:22-27	Roy Reynolds
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Listen now for God's word coming to us in Scripture.
Our hearts and minds are open.

Anthem	<i>This is My Father's World</i>	Sally Kelton FCC Bell Choir
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Scripture Reading	Mark 1:9-15	Rev. Nancy Gowler
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Heavenly words for earthly people. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon	<i>Out in the Wild Again</i>	Rev. Nancy Gowler
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RESPONDING TO GOD'S STORY

*Song of Response	<i>Wind upon the Waters</i>	247
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Prayers of the People	Roy Reynolds
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Spirit of the Living 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
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Peace be with you! **And also with you.**

Invitation to Communion	Alana Scott
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All are welcome at Christ's table.
Everyone is welcome at Christ's table.

Our Sacred Story at the Table	Rev. Nancy Gowler
Communion Prayer	Alana Scott
The Sharing	
Meditation	<i>Beltane Dance</i> by Monika Stadler Sally Kelton

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Closing Words of Hope	Rev. Nancy Gowler
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With the whole church,
**we celebrate that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**
With people everywhere,
**we celebrate God's goodness at the heart of humanity
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**
With all creation,
**we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,
the unfolding purposes of God,
forever at work in ourselves and the world. Amen.**

*Sung Response	<i>The Peace of the Earth</i>
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Gently

*Postlude	<i>Wind upon the Waters</i>	Jiyeon McGillicuddy
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