

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We are glad to have you worship with us today.

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.

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

Dec. 10	10:00 AM	Holiday Photo Booth. Snap a photo with family & friends.
	7:00 PM	Advent Film Festival—Week 3 (Zoom)
Dec. 12	7:00 PM	Women of the Bible study (Zoom)
Dec. 13	7:00 PM	Choir practice
<i>Looking Ahead</i>		
Dec. 21	6:45 PM	Longest Night: Liturgy for the Weary service

OUR PRAYERS

World Council of Churches ecumenical prayer calendar:

Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

For those who desire our prayers:

Samiah Cosquilla, Michael Scott Gammon, Jim Whidden, January Price Reed, Allison & Mike, Doug Anderson, Helen Hall, Pam Hesler, Johnny Chafin, Walker Harris, Peggy Fleming, Ben McCormick, J. J. Balangie, Rex Chaney, Lola Smith, Maggie Miles, Janelle Hare, Betty Miller, Katie Parker, Jim Gross, Helen Rowe, Cathy Thomas, Tony Honeycutt, Mechelle Marshall, Brent Rogers, Jacob Morrill, Jean and John Roberts, John Gullett, Frances Pucket, Tammy Sholberg, Jim Fred Cassity, Joe Thompson, Eva Johnston, Hedy Caldwell, Ned Breschel.

For those celebrating birthdays:

Sandy Gullett (12/12)

Prayer concerns and joys may be shared with the office.

We will begin a new prayer list in January. If you wish to have a name remain on the list, please share with the office.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD

227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY, 40351

phone: 606.784.4836
email: fccmky@gmail.com



How does a weary world rejoice?

ADVENT FILM FESTIVAL



Week 3 - December 10
Doctor Strange (2016, Rated PG-13)
Part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, this film introduces the talented neurosurgeon Doctor Stephen Strange, who after a career-ending car accident, goes on a trek for healing and self-understanding.
Available to rent on Amazon, Google Play, DirectTV, & more.



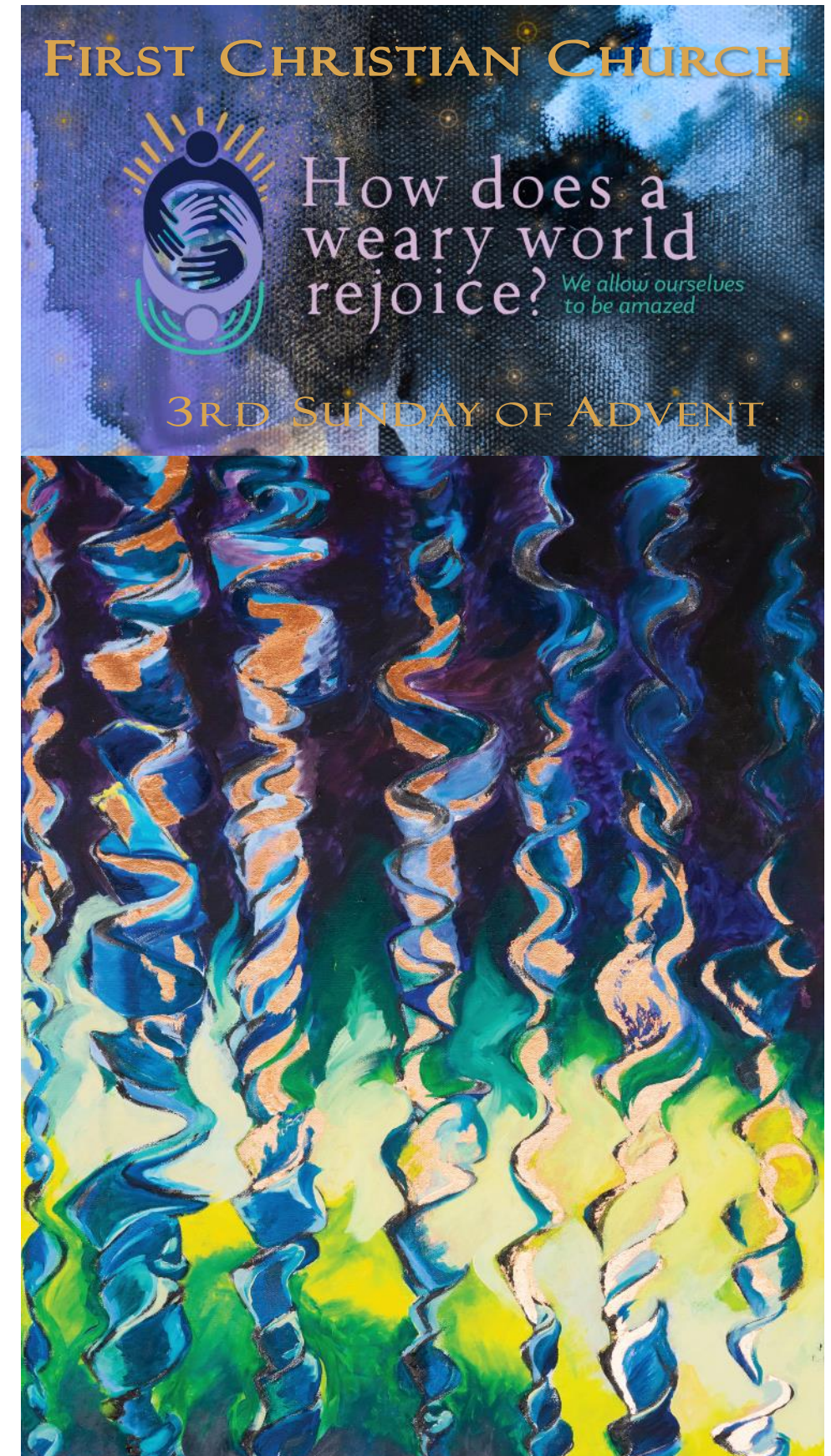
Week 4 - December 17
The Band's Visit (2007, Rated PG-13)
An Egyptian Police Band arrives in Israel to play at the opening of an Arab Cultural Center. With no delegation to meet them at the airport, they take the wrong bus and end up stranded overnight in a small town.
Available to rent on Amazon, AppleTV, DirectTV, & more.

Watch the film on your own and then join the Zoom conversation on Sunday nights at 7PM.
Message us for a Zoom link.

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
Interns.....	Maura McCoy, Mason Pack, Logan Smalley, Katie Webb
Liturgist.....	Carmen Swim
Elder	Yvonne Baldwin
Greeter.....	Brent Rogers
Audio/Visual Team.....	Ethan Jenkins, Braeden Trent
Nursery Attendant.....	Ellie Williams



DECEMBER 10, 2023

*indicates the congregation stands in body and/or spirit

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

For thousands of years, First Peoples 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.

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Welcome Rev. Nancy Gowler
Bell of Mindfulness Carmen Swim
Prelude *Bethlehem Night* FCC Choir
Call to Worship Carmen Swim

What are your dreams, God's beloved people?

**To be filled with laughter;
to cry tears of joy, not of sorrow.**

What are your hopes, God's beloved people?

**To be released from the burdens which weigh heavy on us;
to shout with thanksgiving, not to be silenced by trouble.**

Rejoice, God's beloved; for here and now,

**God is doing a new thing,
bringing our hopes and dreams alive.**

Our hearts are lifted by the wonders of our God.

Today we will praise our God with shouts of joy.

Opening Prayer Carmen Swim

*Gathering Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* 119

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle Susan and Jack Whidden

Advent Hymn *Jesus Came Bringing Us Joy*

Jesus came bringing us joy. (x3)

Hallelujah forevermore.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance Rev. Nancy Gowler

Holy God,

Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe.

We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts.

**We praise those who have answers,
and assume that wonder is an answerless game.**

Forgive us for closing that door to you.

Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children.

Teach us the ways of awe and wonder,

**so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless,
our first words will be words of praise.**

With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

We are forgiven.

We are loved.

We belong to God.

Amen!

SACRED STORIES

Scripture Reading Psalm 126 Carmen Swim

Listen now for Word and Wisdom

as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

Special Music *Lo How A Rose e'er Blooming* FCC Choir

Gospel Reading Luke 1:57-66 Rev. Nancy Gowler

Heavenly words for earthly people.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Interrupted by Joy* Rev. Nancy Gowler

RESPONDING TO GOD'S STORY

*Song of Response *Isn't It Amazing* tune: *Gloria*

Seeds with-in the so - il grow Deep un - der the
Deep - er, deep - er grow the roots Reach - ing up - ward
Cell by cell a plant is built Toward the sun the
Ev - en when the earth seems bare Plant the seeds of

ground be - low Plant - ed when the earth was bare
grow the shoots Through the earth they weave and snake
leaves will tilt Nour - ished by the sun and rain
hope with care If you wat - er in the drought

No life show - ing an - y - where Glo -
Un - til so - il starts to break Glo -
To bring forth its seed and grain Glo -
You will reap with joy - ous shout Glo -

ri - a Is - n't it a - ma - zing?

Glo - ri - a

Is - n't it a - ma - zing?

Prayers of the People Carmen Swim

God of wonder...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 Yvonne Baldwin

All are welcome at Christ's table.

Everyone is welcome at Christ's table.

Our Story at the Table Rev. Nancy Gowler

Communion Prayer Yvonne Baldwin

The Sharing Rev. Nancy Gowler

Meditation *Wise Ones Led by a Star* Jiyeon McGillicuddy

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Closing Words of Hope Rev. Nancy Gowler

*Sung Response *Jesus Came Bringing Us Joy*

Jesus came bringing us joy. (x3)

Hallelujah forevermore.

Postlude *Isn't It Amazing* Jiyeon McGillicuddy

Resources: Scripture readings: ©2021 *The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Updated Edition*, NCCC-USA, Used by permission; Liturgy adapted from ©a sanctified art, sanctifiedart.org; Music: *Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope*, words and music: traditional song, Cameroon; arr. ©2007 The United Church of Canada & *Isn't It Amazing*, ©2023 Anna Strickland, a sanctified art.