

## 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. Children's bulletins are available at the sanctuary entrances and the worship activity center in back. Our nursery is available at 10:30am for ages 0-4 years. The nursery is located on the 2nd floor.

**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, place gifts in the offering boxes at any sanctuary entrance. To visit our website for online giving options, scan QR code.



**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

September 29	10:45 AM	Worship service
October 1	7:00 PM	Women of the Bible (Zoom)
October 2	6:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
October 3	7:00 PM	Vespers (Zoom)
October 6	10:45 AM	Worship Service

## OUR PRAYERS

### World Council of Churches ecumenical prayer calendar:

Columbia, Ecuador, Venezuela

### For those who desire our prayers:

Joyce Hart, Daniel Rogers, Richard and Becky Valentine, Wendall Jones, Tim Stevens, Ted Trent, Kathy Perry, Katie Parker, Jackie Bailey, Maggie Miles, Cathy Thomas, John Gullett, Jim Fred Cassity, Jim Gross, Ned Breschel, Hedy Caldwell, Eva Johnston, Tony Honeycutt

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

227 East Main Street  
Morehead, KY, 40351

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We welcome Bil Lepp as our guest preacher this morning.

Lep is a nationally known storyteller and award-winning author and recording artist. An ordained United Methodist minister with a master's in theology from Duke Divinity School, Lepp served churches in West Virginia before becoming a full-time storyteller. In a 2009 alumni profile for Duke Magazine, Lepp explained, "One of my principal motivators for going into the ministry was that I was tired of bad sermons."

Though a five-time champion of the WV Liars's Contest, Lepp's stories often contain morsels of truth which present universal themes in clever and witty ways. As Lepp says, "Several of the disciples were fisherman, so, obviously, Jesus liked liars."



## 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 ..... Michaela Burton, Mason Pack, Logan Smalley, Katie Webb  
Liturgist ..... Roy Reynolds  
Elder ..... Yvonne Baldwin  
Greeter ..... Marge Thomas  
Audio/Visual Team ..... Maddox Reinhardt, Braeden Trent  
Nursery Attendant ..... Ellie Williams

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD

## SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

### SEASON OF CREATION 2024



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION  
September 1 - October 4

### The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

—Wendell Berry

### 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.*

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

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

### CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Welcome	Rev. Nancy Gowler
Bell of Mindfulness	Roy Reynolds
Prelude <i>All Things Bright and Beautiful</i>	Jiyeon McGillicuddy
Call to Worship	Roy Reynolds

Creator of all life, God-with-Us, we gather,  
**to begin again our caretaking of your Creation.**  
 In this time of worship; feed us:  
**with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.**  
 Awaken within our hearts;  
**a holy passion for sustainable living,**  
**as partners with Creation's kin.**  
 Through your Spirit's guidance enable us:  
**to take lighter footsteps on your good earth.**  
 In all our days, help us:  
**to walk your paths of living more simply,**  
**in your abundant shalom.**

Prayer of Awareness Roy Reynolds

\*Gathering Hymn *We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God* 64

A Time of Confession Rev. Nancy Gowler

**Creating God, as the psalmist reminds us,**  
**we depend upon you like trees,**  
**planted beside a stream.**  
**Forgive us for our straying.**  
**We know there were times**  
**when we've harbored resentment and jealousy,**  
**when we've been consumed by ambition.**  
**We have not paused to recall your values,**  
**nor to ask for guidance.**  
**Our negligence often leaves us weary.**  
**Renew and forgive us.**  
**Bring us ever closer to you.**  
**Plant your wisdom within us.**

*(pause for silent prayer)*

This is the wisdom from above:  
 God plants in us the forgiveness and healing we need.  
**Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

### SACRED STORIES

Scripture Reading Psalm 19:7-14 Roy Reynolds  
 As the rain comes down to water the Earth,  
 listen for God's Word,  
 through the reading of Scripture.  
**With the help of the Spirit, amen.**

Special Music *The Peace of Wild Things* FCC Choir  
 Gospel Reading Mark 9:30-37 Rev. Nancy Gowler  
 Sermon Bil Lepp


### RESPONDING TO GOD'S STORY

Moment of Reflection


\*Song of Response *Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom*




1. Earth is full of wit and wis - dom,  
 2. Earth is full of wit and wis - dom,  
 3. Earth is full of wit and wis - dom:




sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh, from the ti - ny  
 wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny. Ev - 'ry crea - ture  
 pen - guin, plat - y - pus, and snail, cac - tus, sea slug,




ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.  
 has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.  
 oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven  
 Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key,  
 In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a



rocks and trees re - jice as they join the  
 chick - en, mouse, and snake, live with - in a  
 breath God gives us birth: born of soil to



ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.  
 sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.  
 live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Prayers of the People Roy Reynolds  
 Creating God, in your wisdom . . . **hear our prayer.**  
 The Lord's Prayer Roy Reynolds  
**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 Sacred Story at the Table Rev. Nancy Gowler  
 Communion Prayer Yvonne Baldwin  
 The Sharing Rev. Nancy Gowler  
 Meditation *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* Jiyeon McGillicuddy

### GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*Closing Words of Hope Rev. Nancy Gowler  
 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.**

\*Closing Song *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* 614, vs. 1 & 4  
*I'm gonna live so God can use me, any time and anywhere.*  
*I'm gonna live so God can use me, any time and anywhere*  
*I'm gonna sing so God can use me, any time and anywhere*  
*I'm gonna sing so God can use me any time and anywhere.*

\*Postlude *Fill the Earth with Music* Jiyeon McGillicuddy

Resources: General liturgy adapted from: churchofscotland.org.uk, ecocongregationscotland.org, seaonofcreation.org, *A Heart for Creation*, ©2010 Chris Polhill, Wild Goose Publications, used by permission; Call to Worship written by Katherine Hawker, liturgyoutside.net. Music: Words by Adam M. L. Tice, ©2009 GIA Publications, OneLicense #A-739989, Used by permission.