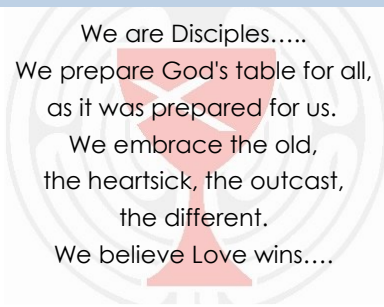


# WE ARE DISCIPLES



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.....

## OUR PRAYERS

**World Council of Churches ecumenical prayer calendar:** Myanmar, Thailand

**For those who desire our prayers:** Noel Earl, Janelle Hare, Michael Scott Gammon, Roberts/Hammond family, Ruby Pettit, Anne Buckner, Joyce Hart, Daniel Rogers, 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

**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.**

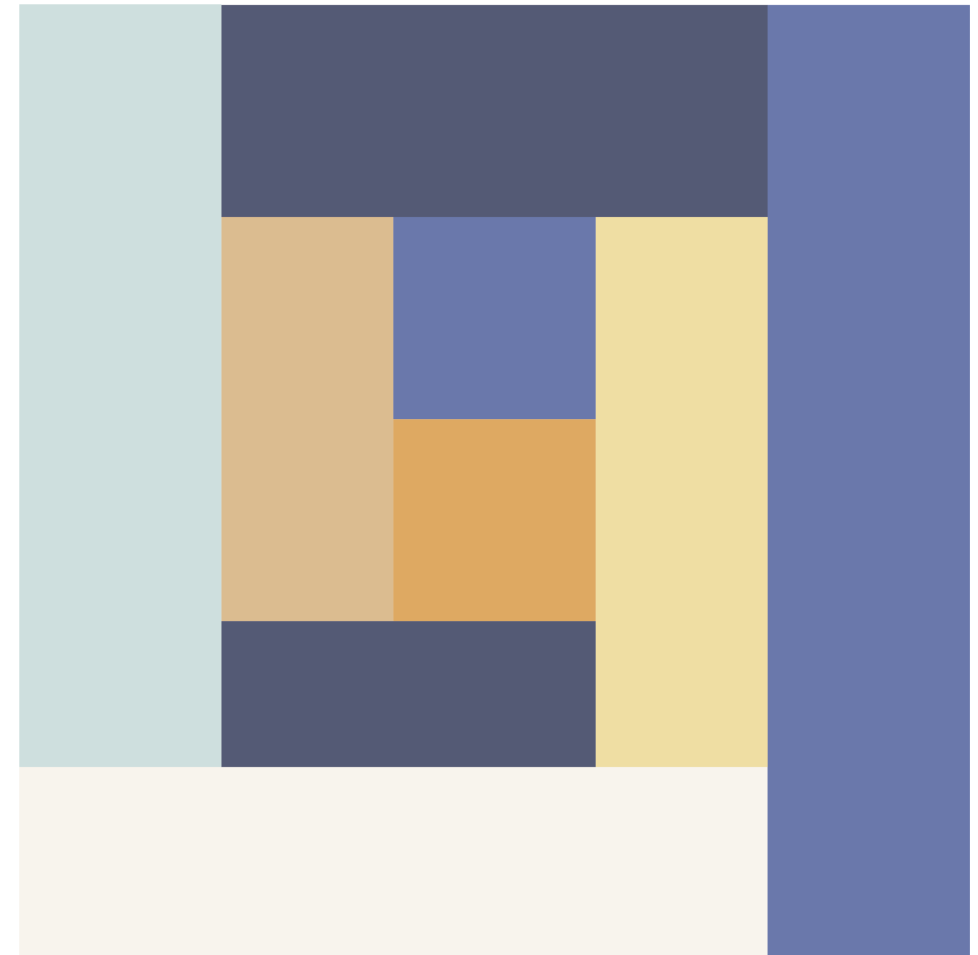
**For those celebrating birthdays:** Sandy Gullett (12)

## LIFE OF THE CHURCH

December 8	10:45AM	Worship service
	7:00 PM	Faith and Film Festival (Zoom)
December 11	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
December 12		last day to bring Outreach sign up items
December 14	1:00 PM	Wild Church at Rodburn Hollow Park
December 15	10:45 AM	Worship service / Outreach delivery after service
	7:00 PM	Faith and Film Festival (Zoom)

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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.....	Brent Rogers
Audio/Visual Team.....	Maddox Reinhardt, Braeden Trent
Nursery Attendant.....	Ellie Williams



# WE CAN'T GO ALONE

## The Second Sunday of Advent

### Acknowledgement of Land (an act towards reconciliation)

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.

## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD

## Welcome to worship!

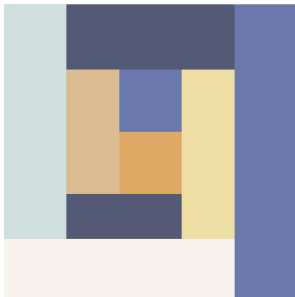
We are glad to have you worship with us today.

**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 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) is open at 10:30AM for ages 0-4 years.

**Communion:** All who seek to follow Jesus are invited to come forward to receive communion by intinction. Please accept a piece of bread and then dip it into the cup before communing of the elements. Prepackaged communion is available at each entrance for those who prefer to stay at their seats.

**Offering:** To contribute financially to the ministries of our congregation, gifts may be placed in the offering boxes at any entrance to the sanctuary. 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



**WE CAN'T GO ALONE** This quilt square design is called a "log cabin", and is meant to symbolize that together we can hold one another up and make something greater.

Our flower arrangement on the table for the Advent Season is given by

Warren M. Garrison, Jr.

*in honor of*

Margaret (Muff) Penix Scott

Robert B. Scott

Mrs. Ethyl Fisher Peratt & Mr. Charles O. Peratt

Frances Peratt Garrison

Warren M. Garrison

Ann Rogers Garrison Greenleaf

## GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*Closing Words of Hope

Rev. Nancy Gowler

\*Sung Response

*Behold, I Make All Things New*

Be - hold, be - hold, I make all things new, be -  
gin-ning with you and start - ing from to - day. Be -  
hold, be - hold, I make all things new, my  
prom-ise is true, for I am Christ, the way.

Postlude

Jiyeon McGillicuddy

Resources: Scripture readings: *The Message*, © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson, Used by permission; Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | asanctifiedart; Music: *Kindle Advent Candles*, ©2024 words by Elana Keppel Levy, and *Table of Beginnings*, words by Rebecca Joy Sumner, music by Gustav Holst; *To Be Known* ©2024 Anna Strickland, a sanctified art, *Behold I Make All Things New*, © 1995, WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, OneLicense #A-739989.

Prayers of the People

Roy Reynolds

God of new beginnings...

**hear our prayer.**

The Lords 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 Story at the Table *Table of Beginnings* to the tune: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Jesus Christ shared a meal, with all his beloved,

took the bread and blessed it, broke and shared with all.

Then he took the cup and blessed it; shared with everyone,

Here's my blood and body; take, eat and drink.

Christ asked us to gather, and remember him.

The bread of heaven given; the cup of love for you.

All are welcome, come receive, and remember him.

Christ of new beginnings, feeds us with his love.

Communion Prayer

Yvonne Baldwin

The Sharing

Rev. Nancy Gowler

Meditation

Jiyeon McGillicuddy

## CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Welcome

Rev. Nancy Gowler

Bell of Mindfulness

Roy Reynolds

Prelude

*Echolocation*

FCC Choir

Shaun & Abigail Bengson

Call to Worship

Roy Reynolds

In a world that is lonely,

**we will save a seat for you.**

In a world that is anxious,

**we will light candles against the gloom.**

In a world that is weary,

**we will sing songs of joy and truth.**

I am not alone.

**We are not alone.**

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

**Light the candles! Sing with joy!**

**We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.**

Opening Prayer

Roy Reynolds

Gathering Hymn

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

144

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Roy Reynolds

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?

Where do we start?

**Let us begin together.**

**Let us begin arm in arm.**

**Let us begin by holding each other up,**

**instead of tearing each other down.**

**Let us begin with words of peace.**

Yes, let us begin with peace.

Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

May these lights remind us of what could be.  
May these lights mark a new beginning.  
May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.  
Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side.  
May we begin again. Amen.

Advent Hymn *Kindle Advent Candles* to the tune: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Kindle Advent candles. Peace will be restored.  
Clashes serve the schemers: victims' cries ignored.  
Scars appear around us. Can they ever heal?  
We must walk a new path: Make peace real.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance Rev. Nancy Gowler

I have tried to make my own way.  
I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house,  
to kindle my own faith.  
I have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if I am fine on my own.  
But the days are long and I am forgetful.  
I need your help. Can you remind me?  
**We will remind you of this everlasting truth:**  
**You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.**  
**You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.**  
Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.  
**Now we need your help.**  
**We, too, have tried to make our own way.**  
**We have tried to lace our own shoes,**  
**to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths.**  
**We have said a thousand times, "turn back,"**  
**as if we are fine on our own.**  
**But the days are long and we are forgetful.**  
**We need your help. Can you remind us?**  
I will remind you of this everlasting truth:  
You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.  
You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.  
**Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe. Alleluia! Amen!**

## SACRED STORIES

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Roy Reynolds

Listen now for Word and Wisdom in the reading of Holy Scripture.

**Our hearts and minds are open.**

Anthem

*Bridge Over Troubled Water*

FCC Choir

words and music by Paul Simon, arr. by Kirby Shaw

Scripture Reading

Ruth 1

Rev. Nancy Gowler

Heavenly words for earthly people. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Together on the Road

Rev. Nancy Gowler

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S STORY

Song of Response

*To Be Known*



Re - call the truth that we once knew:  
For in the gar - den God de - clared  
In ev - ery age hu - man - i - ty  
Both you and I are in - ter - twined



We were not made for sol - i - tude  
That our brief lives on earth be shared  
Re - lied on mu - tu - al - i - ty  
The warp and weft of hu - man - kind



We need com - mun - i - ties of faith  
With part - ners, friends, and fam - i - ly  
Our God - breathed spi - rits weren't de - signed  
So please don't try to go a - lone



Where we can feel God's warm em - brace  
Who hold us in our joy and grief  
To be di - vid - ed and con - fined  
Your hu - man heart needs to be known