

**First
Christian
Church
(Disciples of Christ)**



The Echo

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Week of Compassion Update "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"



As we were preparing March's newsletter, which was sent out the last week of February, we were in the midst of receiving the annual Week of Compassion offering, which is taken on two successive weeks in February. The 1st Sunday we collected \$380, which was a fantastic response to the needs of all the people who are served by our Week of Compassion donations. That amount was so close to \$500, that I challenged the Board and the congregation to join me in trying to reach that amount as a goal for the 2nd Sunday of the offering, promising that I would make up whatever amount remained in order to reach the \$500 mark.

After the worship service of the 2nd Sunday was over, and after the money from the offering had been counted, I was called into the church office. With straight faces, they told me I was off the hook. The Week of Compassion Offering had brought in \$645! Their report gave me chills of joy and took my breath away. It was unbelievable.

But they weren't done. Knowing I thought that was the "final" total, they then gave me "the rest of the story." In fact, the amount of \$645 was the amount from just the 2nd Sunday offering, which when added to the \$380 from the 1st Sunday, brought the total offering to \$1,025!

Fantastic and unbelievable quickly magnified into miraculous! People and places around the world will now be blessed by the awesome generosity of FCC in ways we might never know, but in our hearts we will know we were part of their recovery and resurrection from devastation and despair.

When does an offering in February become an Easter story in March? "When there's a story to tell to the nations" and to all God's children, that love will surround them with blankets of compassion when the time comes, because "when the time came" for us to give, we did so with them in mind and with Christ in our hearts.

Thanks be to God!
Alleluia!



FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH April 3

**Join us for a
PIZZA PARTY!**

Please bring your
favorite sides,
salads, and
desserts.

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MERRYMENTS

What are we to do now that Easter is “over?” A friend of mine recently traveled to Israel with a group of church friends. On the last day, the group was scrambling to visit some of the famous holy sites around Jerusalem. They made their way to the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock, and the Via Dolorosa, eventually making it to the church of the Holy Sepulchre, built in the fourth century A.D. at the spot believed to be where Jesus was crucified and buried.

While my friend and his group found it meaningful to be in the place where Jesus experienced his last days and hours, it was hard to visualize what it might have really looked like. In its desire to make this a place of adoration, the church has almost made it too decorated and orate to appreciate. For instance, there is a small chapel that now encases the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, where Jesus’ body was laid to rest. The line to enter that chapel was so long, and my friend’s group had such little time, they had to quickly make some choices about what to do.

This was the first time, and possibly the only chance, for some in the group to visit this site. But there were also other places they had hoped to see that day. As they circled together, without hesitation they decided to move on. They all agreed, “This place is empty. There is nothing here to see.”

The first followers of Jesus made the same call. The original disciples moved on, and as they did, they discovered that Jesus was no longer where he was buried but was in the world. They found him on mountain tops and lakeshores, around dining tables, and in places of both hope and hurt.

So, here’s the thing. As my friend and his group realized, we don’t have to go to Jerusalem to find Jesus. We can find him in our own neighborhood and congregation. And as the early church discovered, the odds of encountering Jesus go way up when we join together in community.

What are we to do after Easter is “over?” That’s not a trick question, nor is it, given the timeframe of this newsletter, meant as an April Fool’s joke. For starters, liturgically speaking, we are now in Eastertide, the 50 Days OF EASTER, not “the 50 days *After Easter*.” And secondly, theologically speaking, Easter is never over! It is the daily encounter with our Lord and Savior, wherever we live and breathe, share and witness, to the love and compassion of God. May God’s blessings of this rebirth and new life, and the reminder of who we are, whose we are, and where it is that we are to serve our Lord, be upon our hearts and empower us with the Holy Spirit, through Eastertide and along the pathway to Pentecost.

Alleluia!

Rev. Merry Jones

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Budget Figures—*Committee Chairs and Board Officers*

If you have any changes for the next church year's budget (July 2016-June 2017), please give those to Paul Semisch by May 15, 2016. We will vote on the proposed budget at the May meeting of the Full Board. The approved budget will be presented at the June Full Board meeting. As always, thank you for your help.

Paul Semisch

YOUTH GROUP

Greetings FCC family! Our March Youth Meeting was a great success! The youth present at our meeting went through different stations to learn about the final days of Jesus life from Palm Sunday to the resurrection. It was a great day for everyone involved. We would like to extend a special thanks to members of Faith Presbyterian for providing the meal for our youth.



The youth "change for change" drive has come to an end. A special thanks to everyone in the FCC family who supported the youth in this endeavor. We raised \$225 dollars for D.O.V.E.S. of Gateway, Inc. which is a domestic violence shelter in Morehead providing help for people dealing with domestic abuse.

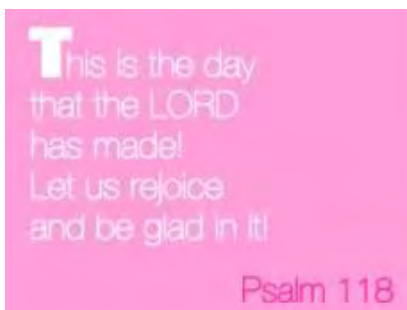
The next Youth Meeting will be held immediately after church on Sunday, April 24th. We will be doing a lesson on Earth Day and Environmental Stewardship, and weather permitting, the youth will gather in the garden area. Leeann Akers will be helping with the lesson.

Peace and Blessings, Mary Claire Williams and Chris Prichard, FCC Co-Youth Directors

CHOIR and BELL CHOIR NOTES

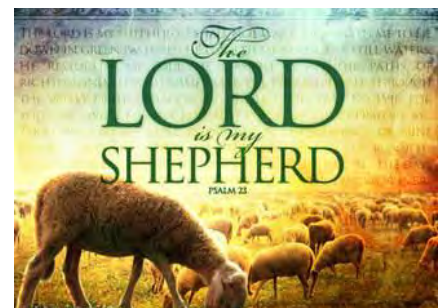
As I journey through life with its ups and downs, I find great comfort in the Psalms. Maybe it's because they are so much like songs. Maybe it's because I also love poetry. Maybe it's because they seem to fit any and every time of life. Need to rejoice? Psalm 32 or Psalm 97. Difficult times call for Psalm 23 or 143. And there are so many more that are just beautiful and prayer-like.

This month, the choir will be offering two psalms for worship. The first, on April 3, is a setting of Psalm 118, a psalm of thanksgiving. And the second, on April 17, is a more choral setting of Psalm 23 entitled *You Are All I Want*. Our wonderful interns will be assisting us by serving as Cantors for these selections.



My hope is that our congregational worship is enhanced by the Psalms as we sing them together.

Genny Jenkins, Choir Director



Thank You's

-I have been in awe of all the love and support David and I have received from our church family – as well as friends, neighbors and this wonderful community. Merry and I were talking about what our church family has meant to us during these last few weeks. You have been our “green pasture.” Your love and support has given us a place to find rest, healing, safety, and both physical and spiritual nourishment. We are truly blessed to have you as a part of our lives. Thank you. Darlene Perkins

-Thank you to Josh Harney, Eric Brown, and Angela Lyon who shared their musical gifts with the congregation during Lent and Easter. Thank you, FCC

-Children’s Church Volunteers
April—Mark Etherton
May—Susan Thomas
June—Open
July—Leeann Akers
August—Open

Treasurer’s Report

Income for March is

\$8,359.00

The average income needed to pay the church expenses is

\$10,310.88

Mack Fund In Memory of

Mr. & Mrs. Otto P. Carr
Mrs. Anna Clay
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Reynolds
Ms. Mary Margaret “Peggie” Reynolds

by Anne & Glen Buckner

Stained Glass Window Reminder

Repair Reminder: We are expecting Laws Stained Glass Studios, Inc., of Statesville, NC to begin this project in late April or early May.

These beautiful windows are extremely important to the history our church. While the repairs of the windows will entail a significant commitment of our financial resources, we look forward to the beauty and joy they will bring to our sanctuary.

Donation Opportunity: Those who would like to make donations toward the repairs are invited to make contributions. Please be sure to designate checks or envelopes as “window repair.” Thank you for your generosity.

Joys

-Natalie Mineer was elected to Vice President of Campus Involvement in the Student Government Association at Morehead State University.



-Chas Jenkins, Rowan County High School, qualified for Nationals in Speech and Drama.

-Josh Pack, Rowan County High School Academic Team, won the region and went to the state tournament.

-Meghan Hammond and her partner won the Region FCCLA competition in Health/Nutrition; and are currently in Louisville competing for the state title.

Calling All Gardeners



There will be a short standup meeting after church on Sunday, April 10, for anyone who is interested in being part of the group that is taking care of the labyrinth garden (and other landscaping). Love of playing in the dirt a plus, but no experience needed, just a desire to help keep the garden growing. You may want to sign up to care for different quadrants of the garden and/or do specific tasks like weeding or watering. And there doesn’t have to be a specific time or group activity...you may want to come on your own. Contact Maggie Miles at 776-4769 or Jackie Bailey at 783-1957 if you cannot be there."

Regional News and Retreats

For more info: <http://www.kydisciples.net/>

Regional Youth Retreat. April 15-17, 2016.
Camp Loucon, Leitchfield, KY.

Kentucky Disciples Women's Ministries.
Lexington Spring Conference. April 16, 2016.
Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington.

Youth Camp Registration

Link to: <http://www.kydisciples.net/ministries/ewExternalFiles/Complete%20Camp%20WKDH%20Info%202016.pdf>

Camp forms are also available in the office.

Christmount Women's Discovery Retreat
June 3-5, 2016

<http://www.christmount.org/discovery.html>



Christmount is a retreat, camp and conference center in the heart of the mountains of Western North Carolina offering opportunities for Christian hospitality, rest for the soul, and renewal for the journey.

April Deacons


Connie Kibbey, Fran Helphinstine,
Kathy New, Carrie Frazier,
Dayna Seelig, Mike Seelig

April Elders

April 3—Mark and Ginny Etheron
April 10—Alana Scott and Yvonne Baldwin
April 17—Alana Scott and Larry Fannin
April 24—Paul Semisch and Yvonne Baldwin

Consider Electronic Giving The church relies on the consistent financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. It is easy to set up at your bank or credit union. The church appreciates any form of giving, including the old-fashioned way. For more information, please contact the church office at (606) 784-4836 or Joe Barrett, Treasurer. *Thank you.*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1- Joshua Pack |  | 22- Dan Thomas |
| 8- Sam Rogers | | 23- Blake Fannin |
| 12- Julia Hawkins | | 23- Emily Tingle Settles |
| 13- Nathaniel Young | | 24- Alex New |
| 15- Jasarae McKinney | | 25- Joe Barrett |

COMING UP IN 2016

Sunday, April 3

First Sunday Lunch, after worship. Pizza Party. Please bring sides, salads, or desserts.

5:00pm—Lectio Divina

Sunday, April 10

12:00pm. Spring Garden Stand Up Meeting.

5:00pm—Lectio Divina

Saturday, April 23—9am-?. Spring Cleaning and Garden Clean Up Work Day. We have some garden tools, but you may want to bring your own. Everyone is needed and welcome. (We need moral support, too!)

Sunday, April 24

12:00-3:00pm—Youth Meeting

5:00pm—Lectio Divina

Monday, April 25

6:00—Outreach Committee

6:30—Executive Committee

7:00—Full Board Meeting

Sunday, May 1. FCC Annual Congregational Meeting (to vote on officers and deacons).

Sunday, May 15. Budget figures are due from officers and committee chairs.

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In and around FCC



First Christian Church - April 2016 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours Monday-Thursday	8:30-1:00 pm					
					1 Office closed A. Fool's Day	2
3 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12-2:00 First Sunday Lunch 5:00 Lectio Divina		5 5:30 Yoga	6 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	7 5:30 Yoga	8 Office closed	9 
10 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12:00 Stand Up Mtg For Garden Clean Up 5:00 Lectio Divina	11	12 5:30 Yoga	13 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	14 5:30 Yoga	15 Office closed	16
17 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 5:00 Lectio Divina	18	19 5:30 Yoga	20 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	21 5:30 Yoga	22 Office closed Earth Day	23 Spring Cleaning and Garden Cleaning Work Day
24 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12:00-3:00 Youth Meeting 5:00 Lectio Divina	25 Newsletter articles due. 6:00 Outreach Committee Mtg. 6:30 Executive Board Mtg 7:00 Full Board Meetings	26 5:30 Yoga	27 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	28 5:30 Yoga	29 Office closed Arbor Day	30 

First Christian Church
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Merry Jones, Interim Minister
Genny Jenkins, Choir
Mary Claire Williams and
Chris Prichard, Youth
Barbara Marsh, Secretary
Chialing Hsieh, Organist
Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir
Kaitlyn Rhoden, Nursery
Darrin Roe, Custodian


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(user name: fccmorehead)

<http://www.facebook.com/fccmorehead>



Lectionary Schedule
(Disciples of Christ Lectionary)

April 3
John 20: 19-31
April 10
John 21: 1-19
April 17
John 10: 22-30
April 24
John 13: 31-35



Easter Lilies and Mack Fund Donations

The flowers that adorned our sanctuary this Easter Sunday and donations to the Mack Fund were given in memory or in honor of our loved ones.

In memory of

Harold E. Holbrook, given by Jane Y. Holbrook
Tom and Eleanor Queen, given by Family
Watham and Margie Gullett, given by Family
Rondal Hart, given by Family
Mr. & Mrs. Otto P. Carr, given by Anne & Glen Buckner
Mrs. Anna Clay, given by Anne & Glen Buckner
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Reynolds, given by Anne & Glen Buckner
Ms. Mary Margaret "Peggie" Reynolds, given by Anne & Glen Buckner
Helen and Bert Mahan, given by Chase Barnett
Alan Baldwin, given by Yvonne Baldwin
Maudie Honeycutt, given by Yvonne Baldwin
Robbie Freiter, given by Yvonne Baldwin

In honor of

Wilma Grote, given by Yvonne Baldwin