

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



The Echo

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Volume 16 Issue 2

February 2016

Lectionary Schedule



(The Disciples of Christ
lectionary schedule is
being used.)

Feb. 7:
Luke 9: 28-36

Feb. 14
Luke 4: 1-13

Feb. 21
Luke 13: 31-35

Feb. 28
Luke 13: 1-9

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President
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Opportunities

PULPIT COMMITTEE UPDATE – as of January 25, 2016

Regional Minister, Dr. Greg Alexander, met with the Pulpit/Search committee on Tuesday, January 19. At that time he shared the protocols and processes for next steps, which are enumerated below. Information sharing, candidate portfolios, and all other pertinent information will be shared at a secure website called Basecamp. Only the committee chair will be able to print portfolios, and due to the sensitive nature of the search and call process, names and locations of candidates will not be shared. Greg explained the need for confidentiality and outlined the procedures the committee should follow during the examination of these portfolios. It makes perfect sense that the privacy of candidates must be top priority, and the committee will follow Greg's instructions to the letter. The committee requests the prayers and continued support of the congregation as we enter into this extremely critical phase of the search and call process.

1. Committee members will continue to meet regularly to fully discuss and prayerfully consider any portfolios that are presented on the website.
2. If any candidates are suggested to us or contact us outside or inside the denomination, those names will be submitted to Greg for his action and advice.
3. All viable and desirable candidates will initially be contacted by phone. If mutual interest exists, the committee will conduct an interview via skype. We will use a pre-determined set of questions (provided by the denomination but also including our own) that are identical for each candidate.
4. If mutual interest continues, a more detailed portfolio that includes samples of written sermons and prayers, along with videotaped sermons, will be examined. Following this step, the committee will use a set of discernment steps aligned with the Congregational Profile and the surveys we conducted to prayerfully consider whether the candidate is a good fit.
5. Again, if mutual interest continues, the committee will schedule a visit to Morehead, which may include informal meetings with the congregation in whole or in groups. Following prayerful consideration, the committee may then recommend a letter of call and will do so following the process outlined in the FCC Constitution and Bylaws.

Continued on pg. 6

MERRYMENTS: Abstain and Add



The Lenten Season is upon us. The forty days of our Lenten journey comes very early this year, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 10th and taking us to Easter Sunday on March 27th. Lent is different from most of our special church observances in that it offers us an extended and deliberate time to become closer to God through a variety of avenues and perspectives. During this time we are invited and encouraged to reflect more deeply; to observe more carefully, to discover more intentionally, and to pray more sincerely about our lives, our beliefs, our habits, our sins, our faith, and our priorities. We are given the chance to spiritually challenge ourselves with new awareness and routines that help us remember and explore the very nature of our finite human existence as compared and contrasted to God's eternal and infinite love.

One of the most popular ways people observe Lent is with the discipline of abstinence, of giving up something for 40 days. There are multiple ways to do that. Statistics report the most popular item people give up for Lent is chocolate. But it's not a popularity contest. If we want to abstain from something, it should be by withholding an item which helps us realize our dependence upon God, as we deny ourselves other earthly temptations. Maybe it is chocolate. Maybe it's peanuts. Maybe it's a TV program or eating out.

Maybe our Lenten discipline is not giving up anything. Maybe it is adding something new into our daily routine: a time for meditation, emailing/texting/writing a kind note to a friend or loved one, wearing only black clothing, surprising a stranger with a random act of kindness, the list is endless as we strive to keep centered on God's grace instead of our typical self-centeredness.

This Lenten Season, we will be adding a couple of items to our worship service in such a way that gives us, the congregation, a chance to observe a Lenten discipline together. They will not be permanent changes. They are intended only to gently and temporarily change our old patterns in order to recognize how easily we can be lulled into routines. Worship routines are important and meaningful, to be sure. However, their significance can become even more powerful when we experience them in new ways.

The first change is something the church has done for many years. The "Alleluias" will go away. We will symbolically be putting them in the Alleluia Box before Ash Wednesday, and abstain from using them until Easter. In addition to that, we will be using the First Scripture as a brief lesson on Symbols of Lent, with a different scripture and symbol shared each week in worship.

Another change is more of a switch. Every week, instead of praying The Lord's Prayer after the Invocation, we will shift the prayer over to the Celebration of Communion portion of the service, and sing it as the Communion Hymn. Be assured, it is a "congregational friendly" version of The Lord's Prayer, and has a much easier melody than the one we hear sung as special solos. By connecting this prayer hymn with the symbols of the Bread and Cup of the Table, we more fully engage the saving grace offered there.

Then at the close of each worship service, we will be singing the same Congregational Benediction Hymn every week until Easter. We are already used to singing congregational benedictions on other Sundays, so this is not really "new," simply more intentional in word and tone. The Benediction will be #569 in our hymnal, "Jesus, Remember Me." It is easy to sing; only two lines long; yet will help remind us that as we are striving to remember Jesus throughout the weeks of Lent, our ever present prayer of hope is for "Jesus to remember us, when he comes into his kingdom." Look it up in the hymnal before Lent starts, and see how very simple, but profound its message is.

As we find ways to observe Lent individually, and share in ways of observing Lent corporately, may our journeys lead us in paths of righteousness and peace, of redemption and hope, and of resurrection and love in the name of our Lord, and Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

Rev. Merry Jones

YOUTH GROUP

The youth will meet in January on the 31st. Our lesson will be centered around the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the importance of showing love and acceptance to others. We would like to extend a special thanks to Genny Jenkins for providing pizza for lunch at our meeting. The February youth meeting will take place on Sunday, February 28 immediately following the morning service. As always we look forward to our time working with the youth.



SPECIAL REQUEST: We are in need of special, caring Sunday School teachers for our youth. The time frame is 20 minutes each Sunday. There is a wonderful curriculum provided. Please pray about this and if you would like to make this part of your ministry for just one month at a time, please contact us or the office. Thank you to Jackie Bailey for the February classes.

Peace and Blessings,

Chris Prichard & Mary Claire, FCC Youth Directors.

CHOIR and BELL CHOIR NOTES

As we head into Lent – yes, it’s coming up very soon (!) – I wanted to invite the congregation to reflect on The Lord’s Prayer. We will be singing this prayer throughout Lent, and sometimes a new reflection can help us relate to something familiar in a new way. The following is a list of prayer suggestions from Margaret Wooding Jones of the World Prayer Centre to go along with the text of The Lord’s Prayer. I hope they will aid in your Lenten journey. *Our Father, who art in heaven* (Pray for those you know who feel isolated and alone, who need to know the Father’s love for them) *hallowed be thy name* (Pray for those who only use the Name(s) of God as a swear word or an expression of surprise) *thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.* (Pray for those in your neighborhood who do not yet know the Father’s kingship in their lives. Pray for opportunities for them to see the Kingdom in action through Hope) *Give us this day our daily bread* (Pray for those who do not know how to cope, who are struggling with debt and for those who think that their own hard work is all they need to survive, that through Hope and acts of kindness, they will see a Father who lovingly provides for them); *and forgive us our trespasses* (Take time to ask God to show you if there are any sins within your area of influence (school/workplace/ neighborhood) that he is laying on your heart to confess to Him) *as we forgive those who trespass against us* (Pray for any relationships or issues locally where there is a need for reconciliation. Ask God if through the work and fellowship of Hope, there is more that you could do); *and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.* (Consider any areas of weakness that you know that you have. Ask God to give you a new Scripture to help you stand on the Truth when you are next tempted to fall short of His plan for you); *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen*

Genny Jenkins, Choir Director

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Dear Members of the FCC Family,

The holidays are now behind us and Lent is almost upon us---it’s hard to believe! I am reminded, once again, that so much of what happens in our church occurs “behind the scenes”. We have so many faithful members who engage in prayer, planning, meeting and coordinating in order to keep our church vibrant and moving forward. Thank you to each and every one of your for energy and efforts!

I ask you to remain in prayer for our Search Committee as we move forward in our search for a new pastor. I also ask you to pray for our Nominating Committee as they begin their work this month. Please pray and think about candidates for the diaconate of FCC and for the office of Vice President of the Congregation for 2016-2017. We will soon ask the congregation for nominations for deacons and for Vice President—please look for announcements in the bulletin and at worship.

Let’s stay connected in prayer and in community...and remain open to where God’s Spirit may lead us.

Peace,

Paul Semisch, President

Thank Yous

—I appreciate the CoffeeTree Books gift card very much. Thank you to the Board of Directors and to the entire church.

Sincerely, Barbara Marsh

—Without you, we would NOT be able to have Christmas for the children. Thank you! Rebecca and Roy Price for Brooklyn, Shelby, Craig & Aaliyah Goodman.

Invite Others

Now that the University is back in session, let's remember that this is a wonderful time to bring in new friends, visitors, and students to our First Christian services. Make an effort to invite someone new between now and Easter to let them **come and see** what being a Disciple can mean in their lives.



Undie Sundays

During the month of February, we will have our Undie Sundays. Please pick up a paper heart located at either entrance to the sanctuary to select the underwear type, size, and gender. Sizes ranges from S-XL (youth-high school).



Lenten Devotionals

Devotional booklets from the Society of St. Andrews will be available at church as well as online at

http://endhunger.org/PDFs/2016/Lent_ebook.pdf

Prayer Ministry

On February 21 we will gather up the paper slips of prayer requests and burn them on the cairn in the labyrinth after the church worship service. This is a tangible, powerful sign that we give our struggles, pain, and concerns to God.



Jon Stigall

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Jon Stigall, who came by transfer of membership to join FCC on Sunday, Jan. 17. Jon has been worshipping with us and participating in the life of our congregation for several months. We hope to include his picture and new member info in the next ECHO. Until then, may we all be welcoming to Jon by introducing ourselves to him and including him in our community of faith.

Treasurer's Report

Income for the first three Sundays in January is \$6,252.00

The average income needed to pay the church expenses is \$10,298.54.

Living Memorial Fund

In Memory of

Dr. Jack English Bizzel

Zexia K. Barnes

Electronic Giving Doesn't Take Vacations



If you can't make it to church due to travel or other commitments, we encourage you to automate your regular donations. The church relies on the consistent financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Its 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 contact Joe Barrett, Treasurer.

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.

Kentucky Disciples Women's Chorus Retreat—March 4 - 6. 2016, First Christian Church, Frankfort Deadline to register: February 4, 2016

Youth Camp—Wakon'Da-Ho

It is time to begin thinking about Disciple summer camp for our youth. There are many opportunities for campers. The ages of the campers are divided into groups. Please circle your camp's dates on your calendar now.

CYF Camp—completed 9th - 12th grade
Eighter's Camp—completed 8th grade
Chi Rho Camp—completed 6th - 8th grade
Junior Camp—completed 4th or 5th grade
Mini Camp—completed 3rd grade
Camp 101—completed 1st or 2nd grade (must be accompanied by a parent)

April 15 - 16	Photography Event	KBY
June 3 - 5	Mini Camp	WKDH
June 6-11	CYF I	WKDH
June 12 - 18	CYF	KBY
June 12 - 17	Eighter's Camp	WKDH
June 19 - 24	Spirit Sailing Camp	KBY
June 20 - 24	Junior Camp	WKDH
June 24 - 26	Camp 101a	WKDH
June 24 - 26	Discovery Camp	KBY
June 27 - July 2	CYF II	WKDH
June 27 - July 2	Chi Rho	KBY
July 4 - 9	Chi Rho I	WKDH
July 11 - 15	Junior Camp	KBY
July 11 - 16	Chi Rho II	WKDH
July 22 - 24	Camp 101b	WKDH
Sept 16 - 18	All Y'all Retreat	KBY

The link for the form will be posted as soon as it is available. We will also have copies in the office.

February Deacons

Anita McNeal, Fran Helphinstine, and Leeann Akers.

February Elders

Feb. 7— David and Darlene Perkins
Feb. 14—David and Darlene Perkins
Feb. 21—Larry Fannin and Paul Semisch
Feb. 28—Susan Thomas and Betty Hall



Tune in Sundays.


Previous
Week
Service

February Birthdays

12- Brent Rogers	18- Alicia Carter
17- Glen Buckner	20- Norm Lytle
17- Betty Hall	24- Susan Thomas
18- Hedy Caldwell	26- Billie Jean Clayton

COMING UP IN 2016

Sunday, January 31—12-3pm
Youth Meeting. 5th Sunday offering for Christian Care Communities.

Sundays in February. Undie 
Sundays for Family Resource Centers.

Sunday, February 7—12-2pm.
First Sunday Lunch Souper Bowl hosted by Deacons.

Wednesday, February 10—7pm.
Ash Wednesday at FCC.

Sunday, February 14—Valentine's Day. 5pm—Lenten Lectio Divina

Sunday, February 21—5pm.
Lenten Lectio Divina. Week of compassion Offerings.

Sunday, February 28—5pm.
Lenten Lectio Divina. Week of compassion Offerings.

Monday, February 22—6:15/7pm.
Executive/Full Board meetings.

Sunday, March 6—First Sunday
Lunch Potato Bar. 5pm Lenten Lectio Divina

January First Sunday Lunch



WKYT WEATHER ALERT WORKED!...

Everyone seemed to receive the information for cancelling worship on January 24 in a timely manner. So remember.....when inclement weather becomes a problem, announcements will be seen on Channel 27 WKYT's scrolling information screen, our Facebook page, and webpage. We will try to send an eBlast weather alert as well to keep everyone updated.



Advent Paraments

Paraments are an important part of the worship service. The colors and design have ancient and meaningful symbols. Thank you to Yvonne Baldwin for her handmade designs which enhance and portray the seasonal and worship events on our church calendar.



Continued from page 1

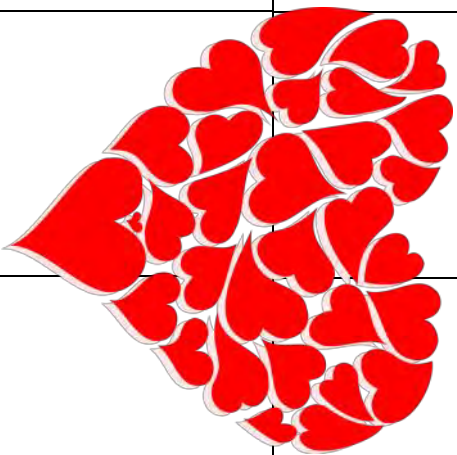
PULPIT COMMITTEE UPDATE – as of January 25, 2016

It is imperative that FCC Morehead be able to engage in this process in a positive way. This includes the need for the congregation to view stewardship in a somewhat different dimension. Our salary and benefits package must be competitive. We need to offer a starting salary that is reasonable but attractive. We must offer sabbatical and other professional support. In addition, we need to have a substantial budget that covers the cost of this process. Transportation for candidates, hotel accommodations and meals for candidates and other costs associated with the search will now have an impact on church finances. Please help by considering this in your church giving.

As the committee and the congregation examine why someone would consider and accept our call, we must not overlook the intangibles that FCC has to offer. Our loving support, the willingness to engage in the mission and outreach of the local and global church, and our pledge to provide a supportive spiritual environment are key determinants. But other “selling points” include the quality of life in Morehead, cost of living in the region, access to quality health care, good schools, good neighbors, and affordable housing. Additionally, we must provide an open and welcoming environment and continue to do all we can to promote the love for all humanity exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus. Given all that, who wouldn't want to come?
Yvonne Baldwin, Committee Chair

First Christian Church - February 2016 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours Monday-Thursday	8:30-1:00 pm					
<p><i>as</i></p> <p>Undie Sundays in February for the Rowan County Family Resource Centers (new underwear)</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>7 9:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 Worship Service</p> <p>First Sunday Lunch</p> <p>Souper Bowl</p>	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p>14 Valentine's Day</p> <p>9:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 Worship, Lent 1</p> <p>5:00 Lenten Lectio Divina</p>	15	16	17	18	19	20
	 <p>President's Day</p>	5:30 Yoga	5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	5:30 Yoga	Office closed	
<p>21 Week of Compassion</p> <p>9:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 Worship, Lent II</p> <p>12:00 Prayer Slips</p> <p>5:00 Lenten Lectio Divina</p>	22	23	24	25	26	27
	6:15 Executive Board Meeting 7pm Full Board	5:30 Yoga	5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	5:30 Yoga	Office closed	
<p>28</p> <p>Week of Compassion</p> <p>9:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 Worship, Lent III</p> <p>12-3:00 Youth Meeting</p> <p>5:00 Lenten Lectio Divina</p>	29					



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

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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Lenten Opportunities

**February 7
1st Sunday Lunch
Souper Bowl**

**Feb. 10—7pm
Ash Wednesday
Imposition
of Ashes**

**Sundays 5pm
Feb.14—Mar.13
Lenten Lectio
Divina**

**Feb. 21
Labyrinth
Prayer Ritual**

**February 21 & 28
Week of
Compassion
Offering**

**March 20
Passion/Palm
Sunday**

**March 27
Easter**

**March 24 @ 7pm
Maundy Thursday
Service**

**February
Undie Sundays**