

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

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The Echo

Volume 15 Issue 10

October 2015

World Communion Sunday - October 4



This Sunday, congregations around the globe will celebrate World Communion Sunday.



Some of our youth pause for a moment in the sunshine to admire the flowers. From left: Nathan Young, Riley Pack, Isaac Young, and Ellie Williams. Photo by Mary Claire Williams.

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MERRYMENTS

This past Sunday night there was a spectacular Lunar Eclipse. Some the pictures of it were incredible. News and weather programs, with access to powerful cameras set up in perfect locations, covered the eclipse from start to finish. Professional and amateur photographers tried to capture the event as it progressed, posting pictures on Facebook or in newspapers for all to see.



Photo by
Natalie Jones

Depending on where these photos were taken, the eclipse took on a bit of a different look. The quality and/or visibility of the event were affected depending on the local weather at any given site. The moon's transition from light, to dark, back to light was one event, yet captured not only in various stages, but also under variable conditions.

Some of us may have excitedly watched the whole event. Some of us may have been frustrated by cloud cover or other obstructed views. Some of us may have forgotten all about it, gone to bed, and totally missed it.

First Christian is going through its own "Lunar Eclipse" as we move through this interim time of transition. Depending on where each of us might be standing at any given moment, this "eclipse" looks a little bit different. Not only is it possible for our view to be different from the person who sits next to us in the pew every Sunday morning, we, ourselves might even have several different views of the events as they are unfolding.

This is an exiting, challenging, frustrating, and hopeful time in the church. Like the eclipse, it is temporary. Like the eclipse, it is and will be a different experience for each of us, depending on where we are, physically, spiritually, emotionally in our relationship to the church, God, and one another.

The difference is we are a community of faith who can share our experiences, enrich one another with our different views and perspectives, and expand our understanding of what is happening and how we want to proceed as we journey through this process.

Regardless of, and because of, "where" we are in this eclipse as individuals, may we come together as a congregation to celebrate the opportunity and beauty this "eclipse" brings to us, strengthen each other through its shadows and uncertainties, and prayerfully seek the new light of mission and ministry it will bring when it is complete.

Pleased to be with you along the way, Merry

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the FCC Family,

Autumn is upon us---a truly beautiful time of the year here in Kentucky! We have heard the word "transition" a great deal over the past few months here at FCC. Even as we have welcomed Merry to our family, we are beginning the process of searching for a permanent pastor to lead us. As the Search/Pulpit Committee plans to roll out a congregational survey in the weeks ahead, I would ask everyone to start prayerfully thinking about where we are as a congregation and where God may be calling us in the years ahead: what are our strengths and gifts? In what areas do we need to grow and expand? What opportunities for worship, ministry, outreach and formation still await us? A time of transition is an excellent opportunity to reflect on these questions, and the Search Committee will be soliciting your thoughts and input through the congregational survey. As always, let's stay resolved to stay connected to each other in prayer and in community...

Peace,

Paul Semisch

YOUTH DIRECTORS

Greetings FCC family!

We would like to extend a special thanks to Mike and Dana Seelig for providing lunch for the youth at the September meeting. We are always blessed with a wonderful meal no matter who volunteers to furnish it from the congregation! If you would like to volunteer to provide lunch for one of our youth meetings in the future, please let us know. Even if you don't like to cook but want to provide a meal in the future, always remember that our youth LOVE pizza!

We had a wonderful time with our youth at our regular meeting in September. This month, we will be traveling to Cane Ridge Meeting House following the service on Sunday, October 25th for our meeting. Parents, please watch your email for more detailed information about this trip. We will be sending out permission forms and asking for volunteers to help drive the youth to Cane Ridge. A special thank you to Connie Kibbey who has already volunteered to help transport youth for this trip.

As always, it is a continued joy to work with the youth of our church. We have an incredible group of kids (and parents) and are so grateful to be able to work with them all.

Peace & Love Always,

Chris Prichard & Mary Claire Williams

FCC Directors of Youth

CHOIR NOTES

Special Music

October 25, 2015

Dear Church Family,

As I mentioned in my article in September, we will be having some musical guests this month. I wanted to take a moment to talk a bit more about this exciting time. On October 25, the **Black Gospel Ensemble** will be guest musicians for our regular worship service. As we welcome this group of students, along with their director, Dr. Roosevelt Escalante, we will be privileged to enjoy their music as part of the Call to Worship, the anthem, and the Offertory. Our offertory will be extended that day to include two collections. **The first will be our regular collection and the second will be a "love offering" which will be given to our guests to support their continued musical performances.** Please plan to give generously to support this wonderful student organization which includes two of our FCC choir interns, Lalah and Jorian. In addition to participating in our worship service, the BGE will also be performing a short post-worship "concert" immediately following the service to share with us a bit more of their amazing repertoire. I am so excited to host this outstanding student group and I know you will join me in welcoming them into our house of worship for a wonderful shared experience.

Genny Jenkins, Choir Director

If you have not signed up to support our church, enter this number 11559, (FCC, Morehead). A portion of your purchases will be donated to FCC for outreach programs. For the previous quarter, Kroger community rewards yielded \$352.49. Thank you! Go to www.kroger/communityrewards.com to refresh your membership or to sign up.



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

- October 4—Mark 10: 2-16
- October 11—Mark 10: 17-31
- October 18—Mark 10: 35-45
- October 25—Mark 10: 46-52



October Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 - Ingrid McKinney | 18- Neil DeAtley |
| 13- Mary Claire Williams | 19- Fran Helphinstine |
| 13- Stacy Baker | 24- Chas Jenkins |
| 16- Donna Graves | 27- Marcy Mitchell |
| 17- Jean Hill | 27- Kia Rayburn |
| 18- Makayla Reynolds | |

Happy belated birthday to Chialing Sept 29

Treasurer's Report

Income for September is

\$ 9,714.00

The average income needed to pay the church expenses is
\$10,132.31

October Deacons

- Leeann Akers
- Donna Graves
- Steven Graves
- Fran Helphinstine
- Chris Prichard
- Kathryn Rogers

Electronic giving doesn't take vacations

This fall, 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. Please visit the church website

<http://www.fccmorehead.org/>

Children's Church

Thank you to Eric & Brian Carter, who will be teaching Children's Church in October. Thanks also to Natalie Mineer for taking September.

Birthday Dinner



Our birthday dinner will be November in conjunction with First Sunday Lunch on November 1. There is a sign posted downstairs for those who would like to sign up to provide a birthday cake for a certain month. For those of you who are new, a birthday cake is provided and the table is decorated.



Appalachian Advent December 1-4, 2015

Prepare for the birth of the Christ child. Rekindle your heart in this special Advent experience.

Laura Boosinger

Music of the Southern Mountains

An internationally-known performer of Appalachian folk songs, Laura plays the banjo and shares stories about the songs she sings. Great stories & your favorite Christmas carols. Prepare your heart with daily devotions, Christmas craft-making, a Christmas party around the Christmas tree and fireplace, singing favorite Christmas carols, storytelling and poetry readings. Plus sight-seeing each day.

Single occupancy: \$342; Double occupancy \$243 pp (rates include lodging, meals & conference fee). Commuter rates also available.

Sponsored by Christmount Christian Assembly 22 Fern Way, Black Mountain, NC 28711-9771

Registration: Christmount.org/appalachianadvent.html or call 828.669.8977

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to First Christian Church. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-0865444> and support us every time you shop.



Animal Blessing



The annual blessing of the animals will take place October 4 at 4pm. Bring your lovely furry friends to be blessed and loved by others in attendance and Pastor Merry. Please make sure your pets are secured with the appropriate leash/cage.

First Sunday Lunch October 4

We hope everyone will join us for First Sunday Lunch immediately following the worship service on October 4. The congregation is requested to bring covered dishes and desserts. The church will provide fried chicken (and baked chicken) and drinks.

COMING UP IN 2015

- Oct 4—World Communion Sunday:
Reconciliation Offering;
First Sunday Lunch—Chicken
- Oct 4—4pm: Animal Blessing
- Oct 17—9-12pm: Fall clean up day.
- Oct 18—12pm: Elders' workshop.
- Oct 23—The ECHO newsletter deadline.
- Oct 25—10:45am: Muscial guests Black Gospel Ensemble.
- Oct 25—12pm: Youth Trip to Cane Ridge.
- Oct 26—6:30/7pm: Executive/full boards.
- Oct Tuesdays & Thursdays—5:30pm: Yoga.

Mack Fund

Donations in memory of

Dr. Harry Mayhew

were made by
Jim and Emma Lou Gross
and
Joyce Hart



Search Committee Update

The search committee lost a valued and valuable member when Deacon representative Sasha Reinhart left the group due to her family move to Bath County. The Deacons have selected Steven Graves as their new representative to the group. Beginning Tuesday, September 20, the committee will begin working on the Congregational Profile, a lengthy self-study document required by the denomination prior to the start of the search and call process. One important section of the Profile will be used as the basis for many of the questions on the Congregational Survey.

Yvonne Baldwin, Chair

Yard Sale

This year's church yard sale on September 19 raised

\$1023.90

for church operations. Our thanks to Scharline, Jack, and Susan Whidden. These elves spent most of the week at the church and the week after in removing and donating any items which were not purchased. We thank them for their dedication and faithfulness in ministry.



Thank You

A special thank you is sent to Connie Kibbey who served as secretary while Barbara enjoyed a “staycation.”



Connie stayed later most days in order to make sure all areas of church business was taken care of and completed.



Thank you from Rowan County 4-H

Raven Ford, County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development, sent a “Thank You “ certificate for our church’s support of the 4-H camping program.

REMINDERS

We will be taking a love offering for the Black Gospel Ensemble on October 25.

Our Birthday Dinner will be on November 1. Please sign up to prepare a cake and decorate a table.

Sunday, October 4, is Reconciliation Sunday. There will be a Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering taken. Disciples are called to be Together in Christ.



A special thanks to Maggie Miles and Ned Breschel for teaching the youth about Feldenkrais at the September meeting.

Photo by Chris Prichard.

First Christian Church - October 2015 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>New Office Days Monday-Thursday 8:30-1:00 pm</p>						
						
<p>4 World Communion Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service First Sunday Lunch 4:00pm: Animal Blessing</p>	5	<p>6 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>7 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>8 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>9 Office closed</p>	10
<p>11 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service</p>	12	<p>13 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>14 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>15 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>16 Office closed</p>	<p>17 Fall Clean Up Day 9-12pm</p> 
<p>18 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service After church: Elders' Special Workshop</p>	19	<p>20 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>21 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>22 5:30 Yoga The ECHO newsletter deadline</p>	<p>23 Office closed</p>	24
<p>25 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service Black Ensemble Group After church: Youth Meeting to Cane Ridge</p>	26 6:30/7:00pm Executive/Full Boards	<p>27 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>28 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir</p>	29	30	<p>31 All Hallows' Evening</p> 

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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>



Please join us to spruce up FCC!

October
17

Fall
Clean
Up

9-12 pm

Hear ye! Hear ye! The congregation is requested to help with fall clean up. If you have special tools, please bring! Enjoy the fellowship as we join together. See you there!