

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

227 East Main Street  
Morehead, KY 40351  
606-784-4836  
fccmky@gmail.com  
www.fccmorehead.org



# The Echo

Volume 13, Issue 9

September 2013

## We welcome our newest member!



**Kia Rayburn**

606-315-6118

k.rayburn@moreheadstate.edu

Joined August 25

### First Sunday Lunch

On September 1st, we will have our monthly First Sunday Lunch. You are asked to bring a dish fresh from the garden or farmer's market. After the lunch, we will take a stroll through the neighborhoods surrounding the church. Bring your walking shoes to church! Thanks to Melodie Hoff and Tresia Swain for taking care of this!

### Church Yard Sale

We will have our annual church yard sale on Saturday, September 21 during the Arts and Eats Festival. Please bring priced items to the church AFTER September 18. Please do not bring clothing to be sold.

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—NOTES FROM THE PASTOR—

It is 6 in the morning. I have just finished reading the morning news. Dear me. In an information overload sort of world, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed; to despair of anything - at all - going right. Save of course the cute kitten who chases the laser. (Which in truth never cheers me up anyway.) It seems to me that we have choices in our response to the morning news.

We can choose to ignore it all. Keep our heads in the sand. I can't really see that as a viable option; not if we are to be thinking, voting, caring members of this world.

We can listen to all of it, all the time ("I'm a news junkie", some folks will tell me. "I have CNN on 24/7"). Seems to me as if that would cause us to become inured to it, as if it is white noise, or to just fall on the floor in a heap of tears.

There is a balance, I think. I would suggest the following:

+Find 2 or 3 sources you trust. I will not get into the sources themselves, but I would encourage you to listen to at least 1 source that goes slightly away from your personal viewpoint. Make sure your sources deal with a world outside of Rowan County, or even this country.

+Try to see that they are indeed NEWS sources, versus those venues that need to fill their own feed. For instance - and I am not making judgments about these people - the Kardashians are NOT news. No matter what others tell you.

+Then set a time in your day when you can really concentrate, and truly pay attention. If you don't understand a subject, make sure you educate yourself on it. The time itself may vary from person to person - 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 60 minutes.

+THEN WALK AWAY. Unless there is a true crisis, chances are you will be listening to a loop.

+And here is the step we need to add: DO SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT YOU HEARD OR READ. And going 'tut-tut, the world is going to hell in a handbasket' does not count. Pray. Give of yourself. Write a check. Join an organization. Educate yourself. Make your words positive ones. Don't be someone who sends out ugly thoughts or petty opinions. If you can't say something nice - think about being quiet, or offering kind words. Make sure you are a part of the solution. We can't change the world all by ourselves, but together we can make it better for all.

Jesus told his followers that it is not enough to not do bad things - **we are to do good and loving things.** We are a part of the body of Christ; even with what we read in the news, we already know that Love Wins. Let's act as if we believe it.

Pastor Malley 

I have some exciting news to share about the Youth at FCC. We are blessed to have such outstanding youth at our church that are blossoming right before our eyes. It's hard to believe that many of them are now in middle school! Because we are a church that grows together, we will be making some changes to the youth meetings. We will now meet on the last Sunday of every month with the exception of December starting this month. The meetings will be as follows: September 29<sup>th</sup>, October 27<sup>th</sup>, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and December 8<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Christmas Program will be on December the 15<sup>th</sup> during the service. All youth will meet at the same time from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. We will have breakout groups as determined by age and the month's content.

Each month we will have some kind of special event or field trip for those who are available. I will keep you posted through email, Facebook, twitter, and the website.

In August, we focused on prayer and meditation. Thank you, Paul Semisch, for doing a mediation lesson with the youth. They learned that prayer is not only about talking, but we also have to take time to listen. Many of the youth placed prayer slips in the chalice at the end of our meeting for special prayer requests close to their heart. It was a great meeting!

If you have any questions or would like to provide a meal for our youth group meeting please don't hesitate to contact me at (606)776-8430.

Mary Claire Williams  
Youth Leader

### A letter from Sharon Watkins, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ -

Grace and peace to you in the name of the living Christ who lives and moves among us, who calls us to the Table, then sends us forth to serve. I write to share a word with all Disciples congregations following an important vote at the 2013 Orlando General Assembly. In these days following assembly, **my heart is prayerful; my spirit hopeful; and my love for our church is strong. Surely, God has given Disciples a blessing and a mission for wholeness**, welcoming all to the Lord's Table of reconciliation and love. That blessing and mission for Disciples begins in a congregation. In congregations we come forward and make or reaffirm our confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There we are baptized, our babies are dedicated, we are married and our parents buried. Our faith is nurtured and sometimes challenged in a beloved community of other Disciples we know and love. We extend the blessing as we join hands with other Disciples congregations to share God's love in our communities and around the world. We offer words and prayers of comfort and challenge, as well as hands-on help, to our neighbor in times of need. In many diverse ways, we learn the story of Jesus and invite others to walk in his love. The recent vote to "adopt" Resolution GA1327, Becoming a People of Grace and Welcome to All, has significance for the Church, but it is important to recognize the nature of that significance. **The intent of the resolution is to urge Disciples to welcome into our congregations and other ministries all who seek Christ. It serves as a reminder that among Disciples we do not bar the church door or fence the table from those who desire the embrace of God's love.**

All who confess faith in Jesus Christ are welcome. All means all.

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister

### Meditation Group

Our meditation group will be switching to Tuesdays in the month of September to make way for the lectio divina meetings. Meditation meetings will take place at 7:00 on September 10 and 24. If you have any question regarding this group, contact Paul Semisch at 356-4324.

### Birthdays

5– Doug Hoff  
6– Ann Rathbun  
9– Connie Kibbey  
11– Jack Whidden  
14– Bessie Pernel  
23– Abbey Allen  
23– Anne Buckner  
24– Delia Allen  
27– Brian Carter  
28– Ron Caudill



### Treasurer's Report Income for August

**\$8,998.89**

*The average income needed to pay the church expenses each month is*  
**\$9,795.94**

### Lectio Divina

Each Thursday in September, beginning with the 5th at 7pm, Paul Semisch will facilitate a Lectio Divina discussion over the sermon passages for each Sunday. The meetings will be open to individuals aged 15 and up and familiarity with scripture is not a prerequisite. Contact Paul Semisch at 356-4324 if you are interested.

### Inquirers' Class

On Sunday, September 22 at 5pm, Pastor Molly will hold an Inquirer's class for all those interested in learning about the Disciples of Christ denomination. Whether you are a first time attendee, new member, or you have been a member for years, all are welcome to learn the DOC way!

### BOARD MEETING

**September 23, 2013 (fourth Sunday)**

Executive Board @ 6:30pm

Full Board @7:00pm

### NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Each week at 9:45, we will be looking at the Old Testament through the use of taped talks by Dr. Amy Jill Levine. The study has just started! Please come join us!

For those who enjoy reading the sermon Bible passages for the month, they are as follows:

September 1: Luke 14: 7-14

September 8: James 1: 19-24

September 15: Luke 15: 1-10

September 22: James 3: 3-12

September 29: Luke 16: 19-31



During the month of August, our church received a check for \$224. **The cost of healthy food rises each month—PLEASE continues to reload and use your Kroger card to continue to fund this ministry.**

### Office Closed

The office will be closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day.

### Elders' Meeting

The elders will meet after church on Sunday, September 22 from noon to 1pm.

### Acolyte Graduation

During service on Sunday, September 15 we will celebrate with the acolytes who will be graduating from that position as they begin the process of Pastor's class. Also, we will add Isaac Young as our newest acolyte.

Dear friends,

On behalf of the 3,000 Christian Care residents, their families and the members of the Christian Care Communities staff, I want to thank you for your gift of \$150 received on Wednesday, July 24. As a supporting congregation, you help care for older adults in eight communities across Kentucky.

Yours Sincerely,  
Bill Schiphorst  
Director of Church Relations

Dear First Christian,

On behalf of the entire Space Trek team, we want to thank you so much for your support. Your donation of \$250 helped two girls in the Morehead area with partial scholarships to attend our space camp. This was the second year we offered this program and we are grateful to all who helped toward its success. We have 21 high school girls from all over Kentucky who stayed in the dorms of the MSU campus for one week. The girls went home exhausted after a rigorous and challenging week and all were very proud of their accomplishments. We are hoping to offer Space Trek again next Summer.

Thank you again for your generous contribution.

Michele McNeil and Kim Boggs  
Directors, AAUW SpaceTrek

We want to thank our church family for all of your loving support and healing prayers during Maggie's hospitalization. Also for the soul-warming food, texts, flowers, and cards. They all make a difference, and will continue to sustain us during Maggie's rehabilitation. We give thanks for you and keep you in our daily prayers.

Ned Breschel & Maggie Miles

Maggie's cell: 776-4869  
Ned's cell: 776-6683

## September Deacons

Stacy Baker , Brenda Combs, Deb Eastwood, Mike Seelig , Dayne Seelig, Jim Gross.

## **Children's Church**

We thank Mark Etherton and Jackie Bailey for taking Children's Church in August, and to Carmen Eldridge and Phillip Swim for taking it in September. If you would like to teach children's church on October 13 or 20 or any other future month, please see Ryan Brown after church or call the church office.

FCC,

Rowan county 4-H would like to thank you for the generous donation for the camping program. Thanks for the help in making a difference in the lives of kids in Rowan County!

Thanks!

Raven Ford, Rowan County 4-H.

We will take up our Reconciliation Offering on September 29th and October 6. This offering is used to fund our Church's mission priority to become a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church through experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue across racial/ethnic difference. Funds from this offering are providing for leadership development in our camps, our communities and our congregations as well as providing resources to promote small group study and community-action. Your giving is changing lives and building hope for realm of God for our children and for Christ's Church!



## **Mack Fund**

In Memory of Al Baldwin

Thelma Brown

Marge and Dan Thomas

Mark and Virginia Etherton

Ted and Ginny Pass

Nelson and Wilma Grote

Porter and Pat Dailey

Patrick and Jeanette Serey

Carolyn Moore and Allie Secor

In Memory of Clayton Perkins

Thelma Brown

Marge and Dan Thomas

Thank you to those who have graciously agreed to serve as chairs for 2013-14. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact one of the individuals listed.

Elders - Marge Thomas

Deacons - Josh Akers, Julia Hawkins

Education- Alana Scott

Evangelism and Member Development - Carmen Eldridge, Roger Fischer, Susan Thomas, and Mickey Reffitt

Outreach - Dayna Seelig, Mike Seelig

Property - Phillip Swim

Worship - Sarah Chaney

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\$41.99



For more items, visit  
<http://www.cafepress.com/fccmoreheadky>



This QR code, or “Quick Response” code, can be used by your smart phone to access our church website! Try it out by simply scanning this code using the QR reader app on your smart phone.

# Things to look for in October...

**Animal Blessing** on Saturday, October 5 at 9am. Bring your lovely furry friends to be blessed and loved by others in attendance and Pastor Molly. Please make sure animals are secured by the appropriate leash/cage.

**Evening Bible Study** will take place on Sunday nights at 5pm, beginning on October 6. It will cover the Gospel of Matthew. We will meet in the conference room. Reading assignments will be included in the October Echo.

**World Communion Sunday** on October 6. We will, as we do each Sunday, observe Communion. But this Sunday, denominations from all across the globe will join us as they too take their place at the table Jesus lays out for us.

**ALSO: Pastor’s Class baptisms—20th and 27th**

**Eldridge/Swim Wedding—24th, 7:30**

**Auction items to be donated, beginning the 28th.**

## September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Service First Sunday Lunch</p>	<p>2 Labor Day—Office Closed</p>	<p>3 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>4 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>5 5:30 Yoga 7pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p>6 3-6 Fellowship Hall reserved</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Service</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 5:30 Yoga 7:00 Meditation</p>	<p>11 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>12 5:30 Yoga 7pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9-Noon Pastor's Class</p>
<p>15 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>18 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir <i>You may begin bringing priced item to church for the yard sale</i></p>	<p>19 Yoga canceled 7pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p>20 3-6 Conference Room Reserved</p>	<p>21 Church Yard Sale</p>
<p>22 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service Noon-1pm Elders meet 5pm Inquirers' Class</p>	<p>23 BOARD MEETINGS: 6:30 Executive 7:00 Full Board</p>	<p>24 5:30 Yoga 7:00 Meditation</p>	<p>25 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>26 5:30 Yoga 7pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 <b>Reconciliation Offering</b> 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service Youth noon to 3pm</p>	<p>30</p>					

First Christian Church  
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**Rev. Molly Smothers, Minister**  
Diana Knoll, Choir  
Mary Claire Williams, Youth  
Ryan Brown, Secretary  
Chia-Ling Hsieh, Organist  
Michael Young, Pianist  
Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir  
Lindsey Morris, Nursery  
Katie Messer, Nursery  
Darrin Roe, Custodian

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Photo of the youth during their meeting on Sunday, August 25 in front of the sunflowers in the labyrinth garden, which were planted by recent new member, Kia Rayburn. Abby Hammond, Meghan Hammond, and Olivia Skaggs were also there, but had to leave early.