

In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, diversity. In all things, charity.

**First
Christian
Church**
(Disciples of Christ)
A Green Chalice Ministry



The Echo

Volume 20 Issue 5

August 2020



**JOIN US ON
FACEBOOK
FOR
WORSHIP SERVICE
-LIVE SUNDAYS-
at 10:45AM.
“fccmorehead”**

Please “like” our page
and you will be notified
when the service begins.

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Reverend Nancy Gowler

*Through the looking glass,
down the rabbit hole,
into the wardrobe and out
into the enchanted forest
where animals talk
and danger lurks and nothing
works quite the way it did before,
you have fallen into a new story.*

--Lynn Unger, “On the Other Side”

As I write to you our governor has just announced new measures to help our state stop the rising number of COVID-19 cases. The trend lines in our state are disturbing. We may feel insulated here in Rowan County, but our numbers have been increasing in July, and we are only a short drive away from areas with rising rates. Our recent survey of the congregation included questions about COVID-19 and how it affects our worship practices. From the responses to the survey nearly 50% indicated they had an underlying risk which would prevent them from worshiping in-person in our sanctuary.

Pastor p6

**Dear First Christian Church
family:**



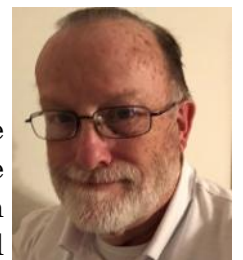
President Catherine Rogers

As many of you know, a congregational vote was held recently to elect a new vice-president. **The new vice-president for 2020-2021 will be Genny Jenkins.** She will

Dear FCC p3

A Message from President Rogers

As many of you know, I am a real college football and basketball fan. Especially a fan of the University of Wisconsin. My time in Madison doing play-by-play of Badger football and basketball have made me a fan forever I do believe.



President Roger

Because of their proximity to Wisconsin, a big rival of theirs is University of Minnesota. The Golden Gophers have a head football coach who is a true motivator. The fact that he has turned the Minnesota football program around in just three years is proof of his motivational spirit. P.J. Fleck is just that kind of a coach.

Fleck has a catch phrase that he uses to motivate his team, and the fans: “Row the Boat.” Everybody needs to “Row the Boat.” He borrowed the phrase from collegiate racing sculls. Everyone in a team scull event must row the boat in sync with the team.

Message p3

NEW FACES IN LEADERSHIP

With the new church year that was initiated on July first, there were some changes in our leadership team at First Christian Church. Four areas of ministry have new Chair's leading their work.

The Elders have new leadership in Co-Chairs. Marge Thomas and Anne Buckner step into the leadership. They will replace Mark and Ginny Etherton.

Alana Scott will now Chair the Worship Committee. Alana moves over from Education to Worship. She is picking up the charge from Genny Jenkins, who is now Vice Chair of the Board.

Assuming the Chair of Education is Sarah Chaney, a position that was held by Alana Scott.

Outreach will also have new leadership in the tandem of Jeff and Ronetta Brown. Jeff and Ronetta had already been involved with Outreach and have taken up the leadership that was given by Marge Thomas.

It is our hope that all will support these new leaders in directing the different ministries at First Christian Church. And let us encourage anyone who has an interest in any of these ministries, or any other ministry of the church, to get involved. Remember, if the Holy Spirit put an interest in your heart, there was only one reason; he meant you were to get involved. Roger Fischer

BOARD OFFICERS

President	Roger Fischer
Vice President	Genny Jenkins
Secretary	Fran Helphinstine
Treasurer	Joe Barrett
Elder Co-Chairs	Marge Thomas/ Anne Buckner
Diaconate Co-Chairs	Elizabeth Ash/ Kaitlyn R. Paschall

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Worship	Alana Scott
World Outreach/Mission	Ronetta Brown/Jeff Brown
Endowment Funds	Brenda Combs, David Perkins
Property	Brent Rogers/ Dewayne Carter
Education	Sarah Chaney
Evangelism	Open
Stewardship	Joe Barrett/Brenda Combs
Pastoral Relations	Genny Jenkins
Green Chalice	Susan Thomas

Below is our thank you gift to Rev. Vicki Ray for her faithful service during the past months. Talented artist Elizabeth Ash designed and produced the wooden plaque.

Our updated landscape garden is beautiful and will be easier to take care of. Thanks to Jackie Bailey who made this possible and to Angies Buds and Blooms. If you haven't visited the garden in awhile, we invite you to rest and reflect there.



CHOIR AND BELLS



Genny Jenkins
Choir Director

The music department is working diligently to assist Reverend Nancy with music to support our online services. We will welcome our interns back this month along with several additional guest musicians. We hope everyone is keeping well and safe during this time.

Genny Jenkins



Sarah Chaney
Bell Choir
Director



Message from p1 ... be assisting Roger Fischer, who is taking over the role of president beginning July 1, 2020. I know Roger, Genny, and the entire membership of the Executive Board and full Board will do a great job at representing the needs of the First Christian Church congregation.

This has been a challenging year for our church. Searching for a new minister, finding supply pastors, dealing with a global pandemic, racial strife and hatred streaming across the nation and around the world. While we at First Christian Church have had our fair share of stumbling blocks, as has everyone else, I can truly say that I felt that God was leading us through the fog. Moving to Facebook Live worship services to view from the safety of home, setting up Zoom board meetings, setting things up so that our secretary can work safely from her home...church looks so different these days. One thing that is not different, though, is our need for prayer and togetherness, even if togetherness must be done remotely.

I can't thank Rev. Vicki Ray enough for agreeing to be with us for the past several months as we waited for our new pastor, Rev. Nancy Gowler, to safely arrive from Washington. She was truly a gift to our congregation.

Now that Rev. Nancy Gowler is here in Morehead, we look forward to having her lead us in worship and become a valued member of our church family. She has already participated in our Zoom Vespers and our most recent Zoom board meeting, and she is already looking for ways to meet with congregational members.

On a personal note, I would like to say how much I appreciate the First Christian Church family. I never knew what would be in store for us when I took over as your president, but I always knew that the FCC family would be there so that we could work together. I am sure that you will continue this with Roger Fischer leading the congregation. I want to thank the FCC congregation for your confidence and your patience with me during this past year. While, at times, it was stressful, I also felt honored to be asked to lead this congregation. Even before I joined this church, you welcomed me, my husband and my family with open and loving arms. My prayer for each of you is that you at times, it was stressful, I also felt honored to be asked to lead this congregation. Even before I joined this church, you welcomed me, my husband and my family with open and loving arms. My prayer for each of you is that you feel the blessings of God each day in your life.

Remember to wear your mask!
Thank you,
Catherine Rogers

~Thank You~

Dear Partners in Ministry, Five congregations or Disciples-related ministries of the Christian Church in Kentucky have received grants of over \$8,800 from Week of Compassion for COVID-19 relief. Thank you for being a blessing to so many. In Christ, Dean Phelps, Trans. Reg. Minister

Dear Friends, More people than ever need the strength and comfort of Christian Care Communities' important services. With your gift of \$80.00, you join others who have made a commitment to help continue our mission of enhancing the journey of life for Older Adults. In His Service, James W. Patton, VP, Mission Advancement

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for the walnut plaque with the chalice and verse from Micah 5:5 on it. Once again, thank you for welcoming me into your lives to share this particularly difficult time. And, thank you for your care of me and thoughtfulness. God's peace be with all of you as you journey on with your new pastor, Rev. Nancy. Yours in Christ, Rev. Vicki Ray

Blessing of the Prayer Slips

Sunday, August 2—12pm

We will gather up the prayer slips and burn them on the cairn in the Labyrinth Garden after the worship service. This is a tangible and powerful sign that we give our struggles, pain, and concerns to God.



Contact Maggie Miles (606) 776-4769 or email maggie@holistichealingnow.com.



In Memoriam
Tresa Pettit Swain
June 5, 1952
-
July 18, 2020

**Women of the Bible Study via Zoom
Proverbs 31:10-31**

August 4—Godly Characteristics in a Wife

When: Tuesdays Time: 7pm—7:30pm

Everyone is invited to attend. Our weekly study will be about one of the 188 women mentioned in the Bible Email Sarah Chaney at sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com.



Thursdays 7pm

Please join us for Vespers. The link to the service is emailed (check each Thursday). You are invited to the service after the host sends an invitation about 5-10 minutes before. Vespers includes music, prayer, and meditation on artwork revealing God's word. Communion is a part of the service, so have some bread or cookie, water or liquid, if you would like to partake.



Gateway Basket Items
are due
the week of August 2.

Contact Ronetta or
Jeff Brown.

ronettabrown@roadrunner.com
jeffbrown58@roadrunner.com

Acknowledging Our Native Heritage



Rev. Nancy begins our
Worship Service in the
balcony.

We begin our Sunday Worship Service with these words: "For thousands of years, First Nations 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 traditional territory of the Shawnee, Cherokee, and

Osage people--past, present, emerging--and we acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

Mack Fund

in memory of

William R. (Rick) Bradley

Janice White

(Brent Rogers' aunt)

JoAnne Berlin

(Rob Sloss' sister-in-law)

Tresia Swain

by

Anne Buckner

~

Living Memorial Fund

in memory of

William R. (Rick) Bradley

by

Jane Holbrook

Fran Helphinstine

July Treasurer's Report

Income for July is \$5,811.44

Expenses for July are \$7,990.14.

August



3— Jack Landreth

5— Joyce Hart

8— Ronetta Brown

10— Kaitlyn Paschall

17— Jeff Bizzel

20— Natalie Mineer

21— Peggy Bizzel

27— Adrian Swain

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love. Psalm 145:8**



Rural King Church Week

August 2—15

10% of Receipts Will be Donated

Rural King added First Christian Church as a registered organization to participate in their Church Week, where customers can choose a registered organization to donate to and begin uploading their receipts. All receipts must be uploaded to www.ruralking.com/churchweek by September 1, 2020. Receipts

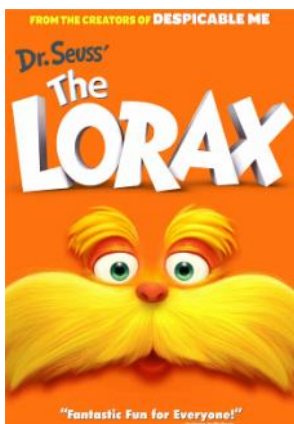


must be dated between August 2-15 to qualify. Rural King will donate **10%** of each valid Rural King Receipt's total after sales tax to the registered organization chosen.

A message from the Creation Care Team

Make the Lorax proud!

We often talk recycle, recycle, recycle. Two words we don't use a lot are reuse and, better yet, REFUSE!



Understanding our Role.

We are stewards of God's Creation.

The fewer goods we consume, the easier we are on the planet. One of the easiest ways is to refuse single use plastic bags which are negatively impacting our waters and marine life as well as our food chain and public health. More than 60 countries and eight states have already issued bans on different single use plastics.



This year for Earth Day and to celebrate the children's classic by Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*, Coffee-Tree Books had planned an event in partnership with Penguin Random House to give away reusable grocery bags. Since we were unable to hold the event, I happen to have a LOT of reusable, flat-bottomed grocery bags which you



Susan
Thomas

can take to any business and say, "no thank you" to single use plastic bags. Just give me a shout (stmoonpie@hotmail.com) and let me know how many you would like. You are going to want more than one and that's ok. I will make sure they get to you. It is first come, first served, but I have PLENTY. Want more inspiration about using less plastic? Check out zerowastechef.com. (Warning: she's also going to inspire you to get that sourdough starter going!)

"UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." ~The Lorax

Susan Thomas

Pastor pl ... Last week the elders discussed the pandemic, the results of our survey, the recommendations of our region and national Disciples leaders, and our own concerns. We talked about the struggles local businesses, the school district, and Morehead State University are having as they attempt to create safe environments for opening back up this fall.

Through it all we remain committed to the ministries of our congregation and our call to be a voice for hope and inclusion in our community. The elders and I recommended to the board that we continue with on-line only worship through November 2020. As we enter the fall, we will have a better understanding of how the unique dynamics of our county are responding to the pandemic, and we will reassess our worship practices going forward into 2021.

We recognize how disappointing this decision is. We are keenly aware of the longings many of us have to come back together in person, to worship side by side with one another, and to share in communion in one place. We do not come to this conclusion lightly, but through much prayer and reflection. It is our intention to focus on our current worship offerings and to provide the best possible worship experiences we can. Our worship will continue to be streamed live on Facebook every Sunday, and we will gather on Thursday night for Vespers services on Zoom.

I continue to trust that this unsettled time can be a gift to the church. I know it's frustrating; I know we are all exhausted. Nothing is easy as we are navigating these changes. Trust me, the learning curve for online technology can be daunting! Nonetheless, in many ways this crisis has forced the church to acknowledge we have been slow to recognize the massive cultural, technological, and generational changes that have already been shifting the world around us. A recent Barna survey on Christianity in the U.S. found only 25% of Americans are practicing Christians down from 45% in 2000 (*State of the Church 2020*, Barna Group, March 2020). That decline has occurred in every age demographic. What we've been doing hasn't been effective, and simply starting back up things just like we were doing before the pandemic won't change that.

Why do I see this time as a gift? Because we follow a God who is constantly at work to bring life into the world, who is always innovating, never satisfied with the status quo. The prophet Isaiah gives voice to God, writing,

Do not recall the first things,
and what came before do not consider.
I am about to do a new thing,
Now it will spring forth and you shall know it. (Isaiah 43:18-19)

We Christians tend only to hear these words during the season of Advent, as we prepare for Christmas. When we read it through the lens of Advent, we know what the "new thing" is—Jesus. But God continues doing new things throughout history, and today is no exception. The hard part sometimes is tearing our eyes away from the past so that we are able to catch a glimpse of the Spirit at work in our world right now.











The Scottish hymnwriter John Bell composes many of my favorite contemporary music for congregational worship. In one of his short songs for worship, rooted in words from 2 Corinthians and Revelation, he gives us these reassuring words of faith,

"Behold, behold I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold I make all things new,
my promise is true for I am Christ the way."

We are a new creation in Christ, even amid a pandemic, perhaps especially now. We have fallen into a new story, a new story which God is writing with us. Now is not the time to despair. For this is the day we have been given. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Pastor Nancy

First Christian August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-1pm	July 27	28	29	30 Vespers 7pm via Zoom	31	August 1
2  Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 am Worship Service Facebook Live facebook.com/fcmorehead	3 	4 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm What to look for in a wife." Email sarah.chaney 78@yahoo.com	5 	6 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm. Email fcmky@gmail.com	7	8 MSU begins move in of stu- dents on cam- pus. 8am-6pm. thru August 16.
9 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service  facebook.com/fcmorehead	10 MSU Move In Days Aug 8-16.	11 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah.chaney78@ yahoo.com to join.	12	13 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm. Email fcmky@gmail.com	14	15
16 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service  facebook.com/fcmoehead	17 MSU first day of classes	18 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm Email sarah.chaney 78@yahoo.com.	19	20 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm. Email fcmky@gmail.com	21	22
23 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service  facebook.com/fcmorehead	24 via Zoom 6:25 Executive 7:00pm Full Board Meetings	25 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah.chaney78@ yahoo.com.	26 	27 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm. Email fcmky@gmail.com	28	29 
30 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service  facebook.com/fcmorehead	31 .	Sept 1 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah. chaney78@yahoo. com.	2	3 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm. Email fcmky@gmail.com	4	5 

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Nancy Gowler, Minister
Genny Jenkins, Choir
Jiyeon McGillicuddy,
Keyboardist
Sarah Chaney, Bells
Makayla Reynolds, Nursery
Open, Youth
Barbara Marsh, Secretary
227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-4836
Monday-Thursday 8:30-1pm
Email: fccmky@gmail.com

Website: www.fccmorehead.org

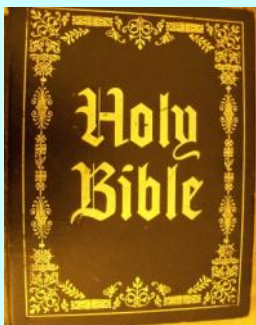


<http://www.facebook.com/fccmorehead>
Join us for livestream
Sunday Worship Service @
10:45am



<https://www.flickr.com/people/139711677@N02/>

Bible Readings
for the Month
Disciples of Christ
Lectionary



Aug. 2—Matt 14:13-21
Aug. 9—Matt 14:22-33
Aug. 16—Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28
Aug. 23—Matt 16:13-20
Aug. 30—Matt 16:21-28

Book Study Seeks Dates in August

Ronetta Brown will be leading the *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* Book Study, as part of the Outreach Committee. If you would like like to sign up to attend the Zoom meetings, the link is <https://doodle.com/poll/pfxh6en7qx6n5me4> and also is in the Thursday eblast. Direct questions to ronettabrown67@gmail.com.

The group is looking for dates in mid-August and will ask for your suggestion on dates.

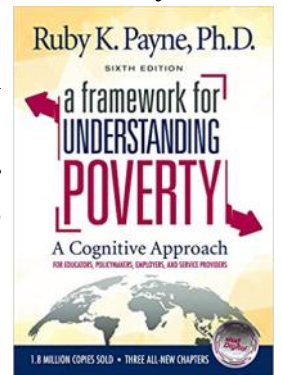
We hope it will give us an insight and a better understanding of the struggles and challenges people in poverty might be facing in our community.

Preview **Introduction:**

As you read the introduction; focus on the Myths of Poverty. Journal your thoughts on a specific myth that perhaps defined your prior thinking about people in poverty. How does the opposing FACT sit with your previous thinking?

What are the 4 **things** that move people out of poverty?

What are the 4 **reasons** one leaves poverty?



What's Going On Websites

The Message Bible Browser
<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Message-MSG-Bible/>

Green Chalice Ministry
www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/

Christian Churches in Kentucky (Disciples of Christ) (our regional DOC)
www.ccinky.net

Christian Churches (DOC) in the US/Canada
<https://disciples.org/>

Disciples of Christ Branded Merchandise
<https://disciples.org/store/> or
<https://www.cafepress.com/+disciples-of-christ+gifts>