

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 8

December 2020



Advent at Home Together

2020 BRINGS CHANGES TO THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

As November draws to a close, the church year begins anew with the first Sunday of Advent on November 29th. To help us celebrate Advent together we've created Advent at Home bags for you and your household. Inside the bag you'll find items carefully selected to enrich our spiritual formation during Advent.

Advent bags can be delivered to households in and around Morehead this week, or you can stop by the church on Saturday to pick up a bag for your household. Contact the church office if you would like a touchless delivery.

*May God's Spirit work in us
during this season of waiting
that we may be made ready
to welcome the Christ Child into our world.*

Community of Hope

The natural habitat of Advent is a community of hurt. It is the voice of those who know profound grief, who articulate it and do not cover it over. But this community of hurt knows where to speak its grief, toward whom to address its pain....And because the hurt is expressed to the One whose rule is not in doubt, the community of hurt is profoundly a community of hope. —Walter Brueggemann



Reverend Nancy
Gowler

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation. Each year we come to the season of Advent and remind ourselves the pace of the Christian year is markedly at odds with the frantic holiday culture around us. This year feels different. 2020 has been a year defined by waiting—waiting for a bending of the curve, for restrictions to end, for test results, for 14 days of quarantine, for life to get back to normal, for election results, for a vaccine.

Community p2

Message from the President

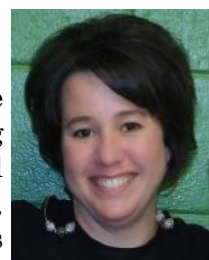
Dear Friends,

Welcome to a holiday season like no other! As I face down the long weeks of the season with no end in sight for the current pandemic, numbers of cases and deaths climbing, and the darkness falling so early each day, I find myself having to work a little harder not to succumb to despair. It's tempting! Optimism is having a hard year and I find myself holding on to my cheerful outlook with both hands as it tries to get away like a kite soaring higher and higher on the wind (think Pooh holding Piglet's scarf in the story about the blustery day).



So, as part of my stubborn refusal to let go of my optimism, I addressed this situation (as any self-respecting teacher would) by making a pro/con list.

Message p2



President Genny
Jenkins

Community p1

We've done so much waiting this year; it is difficult to find motivation to wait more.

This Advent, let's approach the season from another angle. Yes, we wait in anticipation for the Christ Child. But let's dig deep into our faith for the Spirit's wellspring of hope. Each Sunday in Advent our worship will begin with the song, *I Believe in the Sun*. The lyrics are based on a story told to the BBC by a captured German soldier in 1945, who recalled that the words were found scrawled in a shelter in Cologne, where young Catholics were keeping some Jews in hiding during the Holocaust.

I believe in the sun — even when it is not shining.

I believe in God — even when [God] is silent.

I believe in love — even when it is not apparent.

We are living through a season in which it takes courage to hope. Let us be a people who resist the pull of despair. In times of hurt, we can be a "community of hope" and a light to the world.

With hope and faith,

Pastor Nancy



Blast from Christmas Past — Youth Bell Choir

Message p1

And for inspiration, I looked (as any musically minded person does in December) to Bing Crosby's character in *White Christmas* and the song "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep" to help me intentionally look for the silver linings:

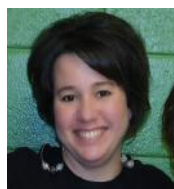


1. I miss church services in person, but the silver lining is that we have had some truly creative and inspired worship experiences that would not otherwise have happened. And we have expanded our reach through our consistent broadcasts on Facebook AND we have a wonderful upcoming installation of a new system for said broadcasts.
2. I miss shopping - the thrill of the hunt is not the same online - but the silver lining is the fun of opening each box that the UPS truck delivers (like presents almost!).
3. I miss the hustle and bustle of performances and rehearsals, but the silver lining is that I've been able to spend time doing some baking (treats, yum) and also have been walking daily with Mr. Jenkins (a habit I am determined to hang on to in the future as well).
4. I miss travel and the fun of vacation, but the silver lining is that my home is more organized and we've cleaned out a lot of detritus - rehoming our things by giving them away to Christian Social Services and Goodwill brings a definite satisfaction.
5. I miss eating out, but the silver lining is that take-out brings us to the table together just as well; and we've discovered some great new recipes for home cooking.
6. I miss hugs. Staying at arms length from everyone is so difficult - and it feels rude! But the silver lining is, of course, the safety of my friends and my family (well worth it in my book).

There are many more things I miss and silver linings to look for...this is just a few of my personal strivings for optimism and looking for blessings when I am feeling blue. I hope this list helps you to do the same. And if you need a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on, reach out to your church family - we are stronger together.

In the meantime, I wish you and yours the most wonderful Advent and Christmas seasons. May your silver linings overflow as we prepare to welcome the Christ child.

Most sincerely,
Genny Jenkins



Genny Jenkins
Choir Director

Choir & Bells

This Advent and Christmas season, our music program is virtually unstoppable. During our Advent weekly premier services, we will enjoy singing from our wonderful interns, Eric Brown, and Andrew Preston; continued amazing piano music from our accompanist, Jiyeon McGillicuddy; and a weekly offering from the FCC Bell Choir. On Christmas Eve, Jiyeon and I will offer organ and piano music as we open the church for worship stations. We are very much looking forward to the sounds and spirit of the season!

Genny Jenkins



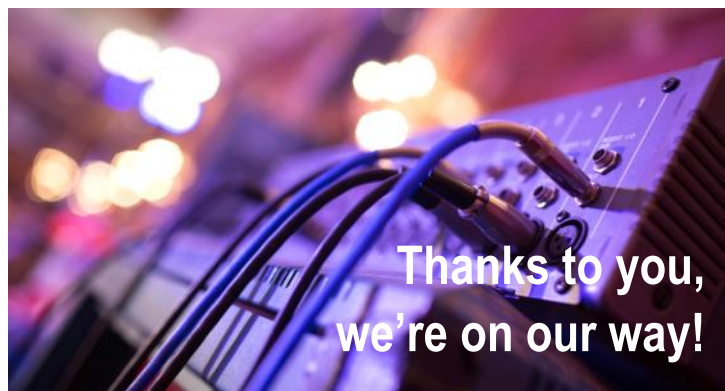
Sarah Chaney
Bell Director

A Message from the Creation Care Team

The season of Advent and the anticipation of the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ allow us to think about our lives and our world in the framework of hope, waiting, and redemption.

Advent is a time of waiting, not passively, but eagerly. Perhaps our practices and rituals can be a way that we eagerly participate in the process of restoration. Consider how we can support “the least of these” with our Advent and Christmas practice of giving. Providing a gift to the Society of St. Andrews, the Heifer Project and/or many other groups will help those in need. Also, in terms of restoring the environment, consider using cloth, old newsprint or brown butcher paper that is more biodegradable to adorn our gifts. In the process, we are saving trees and creating less waste for the landfill. Our individual practices in preserving and restoring God’s community is a way we can preserve the meaning of Advent and Christmas.

Peace and Joy,
FCC's Creation Care Team



First Phase of Upgrade Begins

VIDEO AND AUDIO FOR A NEW GEN-

Thanks to your generosity our work to upgrade video streaming and audio capabilities is beginning. You’ve given \$15,802 through direct donations, memorial gifts, and proceeds from our silent auction. Thank you!

Equipment for the first phase of the upgrade is on order. When everything arrives, House of Worship Technologies will install the new system and train a team to operate the equipment.

You Are Invited

Thanksgiving Day Zoom Gathering



As we approach this Thanksgiving like no other, in the spirit of our eloquent pastor’s most recent sermon, and if any of you are interested in a get together, I invite you to share your Thanksgiving stories (or just join in for a visit) at a Zoom gathering on Thursday afternoon at 3:00pm.

Please RSVP
to gjenkins1168@gmail.com
if you’d like the Zoom link.
Genny Jenkins
President

we're holding it together,
together...

Tuesday nights
7PM ET
on
Zoom

WOMEN'S GROUP



Women of the Bible Study via Zoom

We will be discussing Rebekah & her twins Esau & Jacob in Genesis 25 on

November 4, 2020.

Tuesdays 7pm—7:30pm

Email Sarah Chaney at
sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com or
call 606-207-2421 for an invitation.

Message the office for a Zoom invitation. 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.

Thursdays 7pm

VESPERS

An evening of

(Service cancelled Nov. 26)



In Memoriam

Catherine
Rogers

March 8, 1957 ~
October 1, 2020



In Memoriam

Jack

Landreth

August 3, 1929 ~
September 3, 2020



In Memoriam

Blake

Fannin

April 23, 1981 ~
September 30,
2020



Christmas Eve 2020

A PRAYER STATION PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE, DEC. 24, 5-7 PM

For centuries Christians have undertaken pilgrimage journeys as rich spiritual practice. Travel to holy sites allowed the faithful to reflect on sacred stories and the Spirit's message for their lives. This year we are recovering this ancient tradition as a way to bring new meaning to our observance of Christmas Eve.

Music, the lighted Chrismon tree, candles, the Christmas story, and interactive prayer stations in our beautiful sanctuary await you on Christmas Eve. Pilgrims to First Christian Church in Morehead may walk the labyrinth,

light prayer candles, imaginatively enter into the nativity story for themselves. Carefully curated prayer stations will be located throughout the church and sanctuary for a self-guided worship experience.

**5th Sunday Offering for
Christian Care
Communities -
November 29**



Since its founding by the Christian Churches in 1884 to help Kentucky's widows and orphans, Christian Care Communities has reached out to our neighbors in need. Today, the primary mission is to provide affordable housing and a continuum of services for thousands of older adults. With our help, Christian Care is able to serve this rapidly growing population through an extensive network of retirement communities — including apartments and garden homes for independent living and assisted living, and facilities for skilled nursing care. Locations: Bowling Green, Corbin, Grayson, Hopkinsville, Louisville, Midway, Nicholasville, Owensboro, and Taylorsville.

Donations may be made to FCC and our treasurer, Joe Barrett, will mail one check with all donations. Any amount will certainly be appreciated.

Silent Auction Success

Thank you to everyone who donated and bid on the Silent Auction. We raised over \$1,737.00 toward the new audio/visual program.

Anne Buckner
Kaitlyn Paschall
Co-chairs

**Mack Fund
(Techology)**

In memory of

**Thelma Brown
Steve Etherton**

Al Evans

Blake Fannin

Curt Hammond

Harold Smothers

Tresia Swain

Scharline Whidden

Jack Landreth

by

Di & Ron Walke

~

In honor of

Marge Thomas'

Birthday

Susan Thomas & Grant Alden

Maggie Alden

**Stephen Thomas &
Joe Lonstein**



First Christian Church has been issued a **\$9.69** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2020. Visit **smile.amazon.com** and choose First Christian Church of Morehead to support the church with your Amazon purchases.

**He is able to do immeasurably
more than we ask or imagine.
Ephesians 3:20**

**Mack Fund
(Techology)**

In memory of

Calvin Fulkerson
(Cindy Queen Fulkerson's husband)

by

Emma Lou & Jim Gross

Joyce Hart

Sharon Hays

Brad Hart

Rondal S. Hart

~

In memory of

Catherine Rogers
(Brent Rogers' wife)

by

Jack Whidden

Di & Ron Walke

~

A

Donation

by

Molly & Leon Smothers

~

In memory of

Kermit Vencill II

by

Di & Ron Walke

Sue Vencill

Treasurer's Report

Income for November is
\$6,491.07.

Expenses for November are
\$8,442.29.

Christmas and Thanksgiving Outreach



Ronetta Brown
Outreach Chair

We delivered 10 Thanksgiving baskets to Gateway Homeless Shelter last week. The staff there expressed much gratitude for our congregation's generosity! Thanks to all the youth and their grown-ups who shopped, and to everyone who made a donation for this project.

All items have been chosen for Christmas purchasing. Monetary donations are still much appreciated, as we are helping 10 elderly couples and 11 families, for a total of 40 children. All items must be at the church Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 6th. Toys should be wrapped and labeled with the family letter and boy/girl number.

The tentative plan is to deliver Christmas items to families the weekend of December 12 - 13. With COVID numbers being so high, we will be working on a contactless drop-off plan. If you are interested in helping deliver, please contact Ronetta at (606) 776-0576 or ronettabrown67@gmail.com. Thank you to all!

Ronetta Brown, FCC Outreach Co-chair



Prayer requests are placed in the stone chalice in the sanctuary. Contact the office if you wish to add a prayer request.

December Birthdays



- 1- Alta Blair
- 1- Eric Carter
- 2- Karen Ross
- 6- Larry Fannin
- 6- Rev. Nancy Gowler
- 7- Jami Hornbuckle
- 28- Kathryn Rogers



Merry Christmas



from your church staff.

*Makayla Reynolds and
Courtney Dillon, Nursery Attendants*
Jiyeon McGillicuddy, Keyboardist
Barbara Marsh, Secretary
Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir
Genny Jenkins, Choir
Reverend Nancy Gowler, Minister












Thank you to Jiyeon McGillicuddy, our keyboardist, who welcomes us in music each Sunday morning worship service.

Acknowledging Our Native Heritage

We include in our Sunday Worship Service 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." Learn more about indigenous lands in North America by visiting www.native-land.ca. To read more about the Disciples of Christ and the Doctrine of Discovery, follow this link: [DOC-Join the conversation about a long standing injustice](#)

First Christian December 2020

For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11 ESV

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-1pm	Worship Services are live streamed on Facebook.					
November 29 5th Sunday Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service First Sunday of Advent 5th Sunday Offering for Christian Care Communities		December 1 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7m Email sarah.chaney78@ yahoo.com to join.	2	3 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm. Email fcmky@gmail.com	4 Office closed.	5
6 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service Second Sunday of Advent 7pm Film Festival	7	8 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah. chaney78@yahoo. com to join.	9 	10 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm. Email fcmky@gmail.com	11 Office closed.	
13 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Offering 7pm Film Festival		15 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm Email sarah.chaney 78@yahoo.com.	16	17 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm. Email fcmky@gmail.com	18 Office closed.	19
20 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Offering 7pm Film Festival	21	22 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah.chaney78@ yahoo.com to join.		24 Christmas Eve Prayer Station Pilgrimage. 5-7pm in the Sanctuary	25 Christmas Day Office closed.	
27 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service Newsletter articles due. 7pm Film Festival		29 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah. chaney78@yahoo.com	30	31 New Year's Eve No Vespers	Jan 1 New Year's Day Office closed.	2

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



www.facebook.com/fccmorehead

Join us for livestream
Sunday Worship Service @
10:45am



www.flickr.com/photos/139711677@N02/



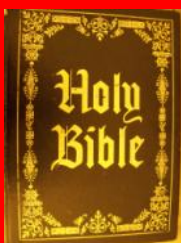
www.instagram.com/fccmorehead/

www.youtube.com/user/TheInterper



www.twitter.com/fccmorehead

Bible Lectionary Readings for the Month



Dec 6—Mark 1:1-8

Dec 13—John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec 20—Luke 1:26-38

Dec 24: Luke 2:1-14, 15-20

Dec 27: Luke 2:22-40

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 - In Memoriam
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- 7-Calendar
- 8-Musical Film Festival

I Believe Even When Film Festival!

THE POWER OF MUSIC IN THE MIDST OF DIFFICULT TIMES SUNDAY NIGHTS AT 7 PM

Perhaps now more than ever, we feel the loss of music in our lives. The realities of viral transmission through aerosols has meant until there is a vaccine widely available, we no longer can sing together in the sanctuary or attend live concerts indoors. This holiday season we are hosting a film festival. The information on watching the films is below. The films are available online to watch for free or to rent. And beginning on December 6, join others on Sunday nights at 7 PM to discuss the films. Message the office or reach out on Facebook to get a Zoom link.

Week 1 - *Defiant Requiem*

Click the photo to watch the trailer. For more information, visit www.defiantrequiem.org. Watch the entire movie on movie on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) (included with Amazon Prime).



Week 2 - *Girls on the Wall*



Click on the image to watch the YouTube trailer. The film has very strong language. We encourage you to embrace the language as an act of deeper love and listening for greater understanding. Rent for \$1.99 on [Amazon Prime Video](https://www.amazon.com). You can also check out the “Behind the Scenes” clip on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

Week 3 - *Following the Ninth*

Click on the image to watch the trailer. Watch the film on the director's [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com) or watch on the filmmaker's [website](https://www.film.com) for \$3.99.



Week 4 - *Sweet Honey In The Rock: Raise Your Voice!*

A documentary on the 30th anniversary tour of the singing group, Sweet Honey in the Rock. The film is available to rent for \$1.99 on [Amazon Prime Video](https://www.amazon.com).



Week 5 - *The Singing Revolution*

Click on the image to see the trailer. Available on [Vimeo On Demand](https://www.vimeo.com) for \$3.99 or on [Amazon Prime Video](https://www.amazon.com). See bonus features (director's [commentary](#) and [interview](#) with the filmmakers.)