

THE ECHO

a newsletter of the First Christian Church of Morehead, Kentucky

Advent & Christmas at a Glance

HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?

- December 3 — Holiday reception after worship. Join us for cookies, coffee, tea.
Make an ornament for our sanctuary tree.
7pm Faith & Film Festival on Zoom, *Faces Places*
- December 10 — Holiday photo booth. Snap a photo with family and friends in
front of our special holiday backdrop.
- December 10 — Holiday Outreach delivery after worship.
7pm Faith & Film Festival on Zoom, *Doctor Strange*
- December 17 — Holiday photo booth. Snap a photo with family and friends in
front of our special holiday backdrop.
7pm Faith & Film Festival on Zoom, *The Band Visit*
- December 21 — 7pm *A Liturgy for the Weary: a Longest Night service*
- December 24 — 10:45am Christmas Eve Day worship service
- December 31 — 10:45am First Sunday after Christmas worship service

Holiday Outreach Ministry

FCC'S LARGEST OUTREACH PROJECT OF THE YEAR BRINGS JOY

From the amazing generosity of members and friends of FCC, our Fellowship Hall is filling with groceries, household items, clothing, shoes, puzzles, toys, and so much more. Twelve families and ten senior households will receive these gifts on Dec. 10. If you signed up for items, please bring those to the church by Sunday, Dec. 3.

If you would like to support this project financially, gifts may be made to help cover the costs of purchasing coats, gloves, toboggans, shoes, pants, shirts, socks, underwear, and pajamas for children. Please indicate Holiday Outreach when you make your donations.

To help with delivery on Dec. 10, contact our Outreach chairpersons, Ronetta & Jeff Brown, or the church office for more information.

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First Christian Church
227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY 40351

fccmorehead.org
(606)784-4836



December Hikes

SPONSORED BY SHELTOWEE TRACE ASSOCIATION

Furnace Arch Hike

December 9 - 8am

Join us for a 9-mile shuttled hike featuring the beautiful "Furnace" Arch and other spectacular bluff views, which are especially outstanding in the winter.

Total length: 9 miles. Estimated time: 5-6 hours.

Hope to see you out on the trail!

Elizabeth Matera, Hike Leader. Email for more information and to secure a place on the shuttle:

crlc@sheltoweetrace.org.



2nd Sunday Community Hike to "feed the birds"

December 10 - 2pm or at trail head 2:20pm

Meet at the United Methodist Church parking lot

Trail head: "Shallow Flats Viewing Area" parking lot, which is located on KY 801, 3 miles south of the forest service visitor's center, on the right. It is a short distance BEFORE (north) of the Twin Knobs turn off.

Several fun activities are planned & Christmas carols.

We will make eatable bird attractors "ornaments."
All supplies furnished.

We will hike the Lakeview Trail until we see Cave Run Lake and "decorate" some Christmas trees in the woods for the birds.

Upon return to the trailhead parking area, we'll enjoy some cookies and hot cocoa.

The hike is a two - three miles "out and back."

This hike is appealing to children.

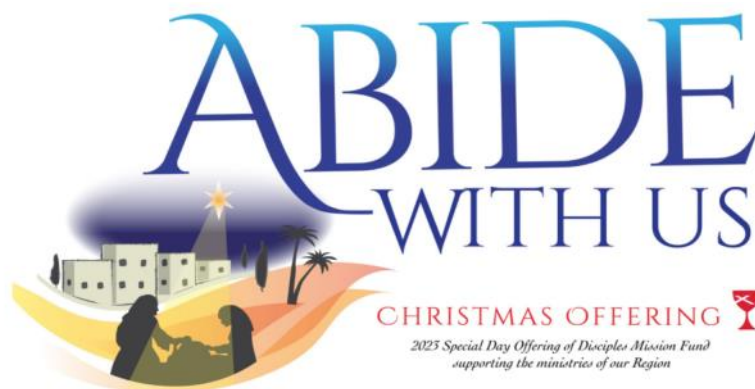
Please allow 2 to 2.5 hours for this event.

David Dummer, Hike Leader

For more information contact Connie Ackerman at email: moreheadrowanhikers23@gmail.com

Christmas Offering

DECEMBER 17 & 24



ABIDE WITH US

when we gather to discover friendship and faith in summer camps

ABIDE WITH US

when we welcome a new pastor to our congregation

ABIDE WITH US

when we nurture one who feels called to serve you in ministry

ABIDE WITH US

when we seek to break down barriers of race, gender, and sexual identity

ABIDE WITH US

when we hold one another accountable and ethical

ABIDE WITH US

when we engage in mission together

ABIDE WITH US

when we gather for assemblies and celebrations

**"OH, COME TO US, ABIDE WITH US,
OUR LORD EMMANUEL."**

Your Christmas offering equips our Regional church to provide an abiding presence in summer camp settings, congregational life, and leadership gatherings. Your gift enables our shared ministry to give support to Elders, Sunday School teachers, youth group sponsors, worship leaders, seminarians, and pastors. With your gift, connections are made between congregations and among Disciples across our Regional geography and around the world.

You are invited to make a gift to equip our Region's presence in our congregation and around Kentucky.

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Advent 2 10:45am Worship After worship, Holiday Cookie Reception 7pm Film Festival	4	5 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	6 7pm Choir	7	8 Office closed.	9 8am Furnace Arch Hike
10 Advent 3 10:45am Worship 2pm 2 nd Sunday Hike 7pm Film Festival	11	12 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	13 7pm Choir	14	15 Office closed.	16
17 Advent 4 10:45am Worship Christmas Offering 7pm Film Festival	18	19 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	20 Newsletter articles due. 7pm Choir	21 7pm Longest Night: A Liturgy for the Weary.	22 Office closed.	23
24 Christmas Eve 10:45am Worship Christmas Offering	25 Christmas Day	26 Newsletter articles due.	27	28	29 Office closed.	30
31 New Years Eve 10:45am Worship	Office closed.				Office closed.	

Youth Outreach Project — Thanksgiving baskets

NOVEMBER 19

One of our favorite ministry projects is shopping and preparing Thanksgiving baskets for folks at the Gateway Homeless Shelter in Morehead. After worship on Sunday, November 19, all youth were invited to lunch and a shopping expedition to fill 10 Thanksgiving baskets.

Thank you to Mary Claire Williams for helping with the project.



We Honor Graduates

DECEMBER GRADUATES

Maura Brynn McCoy

Morehead State University, Bachelor of Vocal Music Education

Future plans: Teach elementary music or middle school choir!

Interests: All things artistic (drawing, painting, writing), hanging out with friends

Parents: Jenifer and Mike McCoy

Comments: I am so very grateful to have had the opportunity to be a choir intern at FCC. I will always cherish the memories and the loving people I've met who have encouraged me and helped me grow over the past couple of years.

Favorite scripture: Romans 8:18, Jeremiah 29:11

Favorite quote: "Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable." - Mary Oliver



Ethan Michael Jenkins

Morehead State University, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Arts

Future plans: Graphic Designer or Professor

Interests: Music, painting, drawing, design, marching band

Parents: Genny and Greg Jenkins

Favorite scripture: Psalm 23

TREASURER'S REPORT—NOVEMBER

General gifts and income	\$ 5,550.04
Last Sunday of October	3,175.00
Expenses	\$ 10,618.28

MACK FUND

in memory of
Al Baldwin
by
Yvonne Baldwin
~~~~~  
a donation to support  
Boiler Service  
by  
Fran Helphinstine

 Save the Date! 

 The Kentucky Disciples  
Women's Choral Retreat

 Sing into Spring! 

Friday, February 23 ~ Sunday, February 25, 2024  
**First Christian Church**  
112 East College Street    Georgetown, KY 40324



www.ccinky.net    The Kentucky Disciples Women's Choral Retreat  
(859) 322-5653 – Shari    shari.caldarelli@gmail.com

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In November we welcomed Danny Dantzler officially to our congregation by transfer of membership. Welcome, Danny!

We also welcome Sasha and Maddox Reinhardt back to the congregation!

## December Birthdays

1- Alta Blair  
1- Eric Carter  
2- Karen Ross  
6- Larry Fannin  
6- Rev. Nancy Gowler  
12- Sandy Gullett  
21- Sasha Reinhardt



## THANK YOUS

Dear Pastor Nancy, Mary Claire, and Members of First Christian Church,  
Thank you for your wonderful donation of Thanksgiving baskets to Gateway House! Thank you so much for your incredible generosity throughout the year and a special "thank you" to the Youth Group for their hard work! These Thanksgiving baskets will be very much appreciated by the families who receive them!

Peace,

Marilyn Smith  
Executive Director

Paul Semisch  
Assistant Director

Dear FCC Elders and Congregation,  
Thank you so very much for remembering me during Clergy Appreciation Month. I'm grateful for all of you, for your welcome of me into this community, and for the opportunity to serve alongside you in ministry.

Pastor Nancy

# Notes from Pastor Nancy

REV. NANCY GOWLER



*Like a canary in a snowstorm,  
I don't need another song of what is;  
I need a song of what could be.  
So sing with me.*

—Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

It's easy to feel overwhelmed during the holidays. Our to-do lists grow exponentially; our calendars fill up with special events and get togethers; we are inundated with end-of-the-year requests for giving. All of these may be good things, many of which will bring joy to us and to others. And yet, there is an excess to the season.

We provide an excess of resources for the Advent as part of our worship and faith formation practices. You'll find a printed Advent Devotional and two Advent calendars (one for children & families and one for teenagers/adults). There are the Advent Photo-a-Day prompts, which can help focus your mind each day on a dimension of the season. We have our Faith & Film Festival, with movies to watch, and a weekly Zoom gathering for discussion. We'll gather for cookies and ornament making on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, after worship. There is the special Longest Night service on December 21<sup>st</sup>, which holds space for those who may be carrying grief with them into the season. And there is our Holiday Outreach Project, which invites us to be generous with those who are most needy in our community.

The abundance of resources are offered, not with the expectation that you will use all of them, but with the hope you will find what you need to experience the fullness of Advent and Christmas this year. Perhaps it's a snippet of a poem you hold in your heart. Or a piece of artwork which grabs your attention. Or a Christmas carol that stays with you. Or the chance to experience the joy of giving. As I write this, the photo prompt for today is "Pause." Perhaps it's as simple as a word for the season that may hold within it the invitation you've been waiting for. This Advent take what you need as a gift from the Spirit, and then let go of what is not necessary.

And in the middle of it all, may you discover what you are longing for this Advent season.

*Pastor Nancy*



## ADVENT FILM FESTIVAL

Watch the film on your own and then join the Zoom conversation on Sunday nights at 7PM. Message us for a Zoom link.

|                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>Week 1 - Nov. 26</b><br/><b>Living</b><br/>(2022, Rated PG-13)</p>   |  <p><b>Week 3 - Dec. 10</b><br/><b>Doctor Strange</b><br/>(2019, Rated PG-13)</p>   |
|  <p><b>Week 2 - Dec. 3</b><br/><b>Faces Places</b><br/>(2017, Rated PG)</p> |  <p><b>Week 4 - Dec. 17</b><br/><b>The Band's Visit</b><br/>(2007, Rated PG-13)</p> |



## ADVENT PHOTO-A-DAY

| Advent 1        | Advent 2           | Advent 3         | Advent 4         |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 11/26 - Hope    | 12/3 - Love        | 12/10 - Joy      | 12/17 - Peace    |
| 11/27 - Weary   | 12/4 - Gift        | 12/11 - Surprise | 12/18 - Prepare  |
| 11/28 - Quiet   | 12/5 - Celebration | 12/12 - Blessing | 12/19 - Word     |
| 11/29 - Pause   | 12/6 - Alone       | 12/13 - Shine    | 12/20 - Warmth   |
| 11/30 - Unravel | 12/7 - Open        | 12/14 - Amazing  | 12/21 - Presence |
| 12/1 - Awake    | 12/8 - Comfort     | 12/15 - Thankful | 12/22 - Longing  |
| 12/2 - Angel    | 12/9 - Glory       | 12/16 - Dream    | 12/23 - Welcome  |
|                 |                    |                  | 12/24 - Awe      |

#Advent2023 #adventphotoaday #FCCMorehead

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD, KY



## History Corner

HISTORY OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD—ANNE BUCKNER WITH VIRGINIA LANDRETH-ETHERTON



### Memory of FCC as a Child

The photograph was taken on the outside steps to the second floor of the church. As children in our Sunday school, our class was held in one of the classrooms in the basement of the Fellowship Hall. I recall a small tin world globe with a drawer in the bottom that was used for our nickels and dimes for our offering. That morning after our lesson and prayers, Mr. Ward Williams and our teacher, Joan Allen, took us outside to take the picture.

1<sup>st</sup> row from left: Bobby Wells, Ken Smith.

2<sup>nd</sup> row: Dicky Patrick, Joe Ewalt, Billy Wells.

3<sup>rd</sup> row: unidentified, Robin Razor, Virginia Beth Landreth.

4<sup>th</sup> row: Diana Allen, Sandy Williams.

Teacher: Joyce Allen

After Sunday school when we returned to the sanctuary, the stained-glass windows were opened by the chains that hung on the inside to permit a spring breeze to blow through as the church was not equipped with air conditioning.

The pews and woodwork were not painted cream as today but rather they shined with their natural finish. The floor was bare of carpet. Girls and women were wearing their cotton Spring gloves along with their Spring hats. Boys were in suits and ties—exact replicas of the men in the church. It was a beautiful Easter morning and the daffodils were in full bloom.

— Virginia Landreth-Etherton

## Creation Care Update

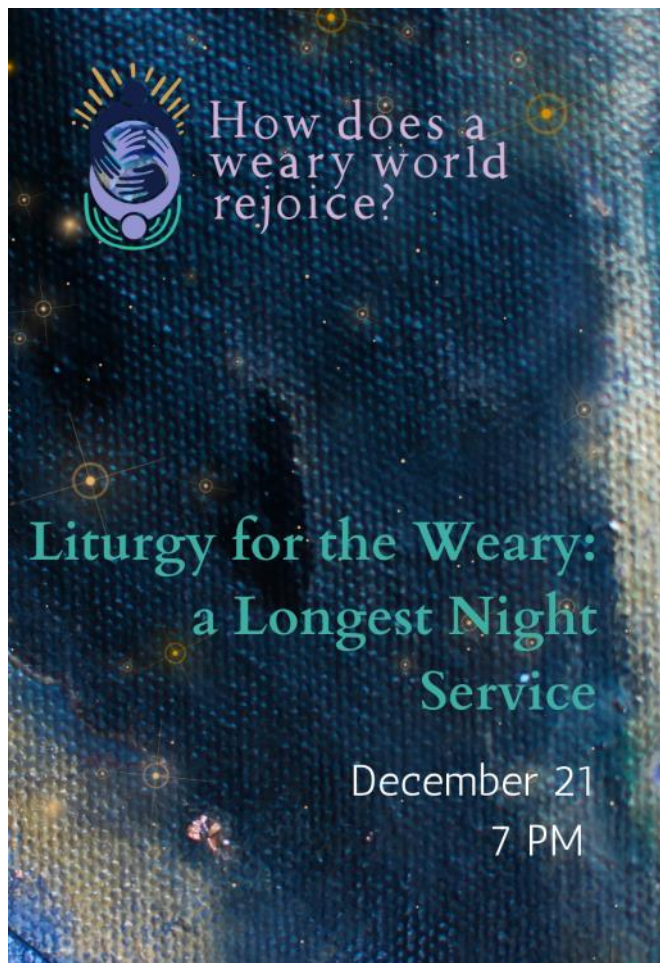
MARK ETHERTON, CHAIR

FCC Morehead has joined with other faith communities in the organization One Future One Home to forge a united faith effort to confront the problems that Creation faces. The banner of the organization is prominently displayed in front of the church and identifies FCC Morehead as a congregation searching for steps to be good stewards of God's Creation.

Within FCC Morehead, our Creation Care team is working to that end. David and LeeAnn Potter are pictured helping to clear the hiking trail at Boat Gunnel on Cave Run Lake that FCC Morehead has adopted. The work on the trail is one project that FCC Morehead's Creation Care team has taken on as part of our effort to take care of Creation.

If you are interested in being a part of the Creation Care team at FCC Morehead, contact the office and tell them of your interest.





## Liturgy for the Weary

A LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE • DECEMBER 21, 7PM

For those who are carrying grief in their lives, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach. In response to a desire to honor those feelings, churches around the world have adopted the practice of having a special service during the Advent season, near the winter solstice. Longest Night services provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the twinkle lights and holiday rush.

Friends, this service is for you.

Bring your grief.

Bring your weariness.

Bring your fatigue, and allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God.

This quiet service can be a gift to anyone who desires a space of calm and comfort in the middle of the holiday season.

No matter where you find yourself in this time of Advent and Christmas, may you find peace and hope.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
227 East Main Street  
Morehead, KY 40351



Place  
Stamp  
Here