

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

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# The Echo

First Christian Church of Morehead

Volume 21 Issue 2

February 2021

## Lent at Home Together

LENTEN KITS PROVIDE WAYS TO OBSERVE SEASON OF LENT AT HOME

Following on the positive responses to our Advent at Home kits and our Epiphany Stars mailings, your worship team will be preparing Lenten at Home kits. The kits will include *Bless this Mess* weekly devotional cards, coloring sheets, candles, Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday crosses, psalm responses, and more. These items may be used for personal or household prayers and will also enhance our online Sunday worship services. The *Bless this Mess* devotional cards include a weekly meditation and additional spiritual practices and conversation prompts. Lenten kits will be available to pick up at the church building after February 10. Kits can also be delivered to households in and around Morehead. Contact the church office if you would like a touchless delivery.

## Message from the President

Dear Friends,  
 Welcome to February! The short month. The month of love. The month of Ash Wednesday. The month of Washington and Lincoln. The month where I, in spite of all these other really good topic choices, talk about no one's favorite subject - money.



President Genny Jenkins

Many things have been said about money...we all know about the fool and his money (soon parted), we know that money can't buy happiness, we know that the love of money is the root of all evil...the list goes on and on. But we also know that, despite all the reminders that money should not be the center of what we do, money becomes important when you don't have any. *I believe we know this.* And I believe this is why we focus so much of our energy on outreach that is practical and designed to be of immediate assistance to those who have less than enough to sustain themselves.

Message p2

## Notes From Pastor Nancy

*Take a plane to London.*

*From King's Cross take the direct train to York.*

—Joseph Stroud, "Directions"

*(Of This World, © 2009 Copper Canyon Press)*

Almost a year ago this month I flew across the country, blissfully boarding a packed airplane before masks and hand sanitizers became necessary in every public space. My plane landed late at night at the Bluegrass Airport in Lexington, where the ever smiling Genny Jenkins was waiting to greet me. During that stay I met many of you in person, listened to your stories and your dreams for this congregation and community. We worshiped together in the sanctuary, and after you voted to call me as your next pastor, we shared a wonderfully traditional potluck in the fellowship hall. That Sunday afternoon I drove back to Lexington, got back on another crowded plane, and headed back to the Northwest to prepare for my move to Kentucky.



Reverend Nancy Gowler

For many of you that's the last time we saw one another face to face. The story of 2020 unfolded unlike anything we might have imagined that February Sunday. So much has changed, and we have too. We've learned to be flexible and nimble in our common life together. We've extended more grace to others and to ourselves. We've learned to laugh when we forget to unmute ourselves on Zoom. We've learned prayer, study, and community aren't limited by the space in which we gather, be it in a building or online. And we've discovered just how much our relationships to one another matters to us.

Notes p2

*Message p1* So, today, I bring before you an appeal for money. And let me preface this by saying that you are the most generous people I know. When asked to address a need for a new broadcasting setup, you donated, since October, more than \$16,000! When asked to donate to Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets, our budget overfloweth! When asked to donate to Reverend Nancy's Christmas gift...let's just say she felt the love! So, I want to preface this appeal by saying that it is not needed because of a lack of generosity on our part. It is needed, I believe, because we've fallen into an offertory rut.

Merriam—Webster defines *offertory* as: the period of collection and presentation of the offerings of the congregation at public worship. The passing of the plate is a time honored and very necessary part of any church service. And even though we have been in virtual worship for some time now, most of us have continued our giving to the church. I believe one reason for this is that we have worked hard to make it convenient! PayPal, Facebook, automatic checking account debits, and snail mail are all options - really, there's something for everyone. But despite this, our monthly budget report regularly falls short when income is placed next to expenses.

A monthly budget shortfall is not a new situation for us, but it is becoming too much of a regularity and, rather than depend on the endowments to continue to bail us out, my hope is that we can look at our offertory habits and maybe give them a tweak. I think that many of you, like me, have chosen a weekly amount to give and that's what we give - week in and week out. And my appeal to you is this: **Could you increase your weekly offertory by 10%?** This church that we love. I know that we all want our church to be self-sustaining financially and I believe that if we tweak our giving just a bit in the upward direction, it is a step towards that goal. What is needed right now is not lavish generosity, but sustained systemic change towards a sustained need.

Desmond Tutu famously said, "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." Let me paraphrase this and say that if we all do a little bit of increasing our giving, those little increases together will (I very much hope) overwhelm the budget needs. Friends, please join me in doing what we can to increase the health of our church budget. Thank you for all you do for the church. Sincerely,  
Genny Jenkins

*Notes from Paster Nancy p1*

As we enter into another season of Lent which will still be shaped by COVID-19, this time we have the gift of intentionality in our living through the season. Even as some of us begin to receive vaccines, we know we must still practice physical distancing to keep one another safe. I invite you to receive the opportunities we're creating for Lenten spiritual practices, finding what may speak to you in this time and make it your own.

Joseph Stroud's poem *Directions*, in the first half sounds much like simple directions to get to a pub in the north of England and to set out on a walking trail in the Yorkshire region. Then the poem turns, and it suddenly dawns on the reader that this is a walk of memory and imagination, Stroud continues:

*You'll walk the freshness back into your  
life. This is true. You can do this.  
Even now, sitting at your desk, worrying,  
troubled,  
you can gaze across Middlesmoor to  
Ramsgill,  
the copses, the abbeys of slanting light, the  
fells....*

We can do this. Sitting at our desks, worrying or troubled, we can find refreshment and hope in these days. This weaving together of memory, tradition, and spiritual imagination is not some weak substitute for worship and community, it is another way of being in a faithful community together, as we make our way, "step by step, into grace."

*Paster Nancy*



### 5th Sunday Offering for Christian Care Communities

Our 5th Sunday offering on January 31 offers an opportunity to help Older Adults at Christian Care Communities' nine locations in Kentucky. Please memo your check for CCC and treasurer Joe Barrett will forward all donations. **Christian Care Communities** is the oldest outreach ministry of the Disciples of Christ (DOC) and the Christian Church/Church of Christ. For more information, follow this link: [Christian Care Communities](#)

## Choir & Bells



Genny Jenkins  
Choir Director

We are so glad to have our interns back with us following a well deserved winter break. And the Bell Choir is also starting rehearsals again after a holiday hiatus. Opportunities to enjoy the music of the church continue this month with Sunday services, weekly Vespers, and Ash Wednesday. Thank you for your continued support of the music programs.

*Genny Jenkins*



Sarah Chaney  
Bell Director

### A Message from the Creation Care Team

#### Clay from the Heart of It

by Jesse Stuart

This is the land where wild persimmons grow,  
It is the land of pawpaws, spruce and phlox;  
This is the land where bloodroot blossoms blow  
In early spring beside the lichen rocks.  
This is the land where oak and ash and beech  
Leaf early to the skyline winds of April,  
Where poplar trees grow to the low cloud's reach;  
This is land of deep ravine and hill.  
This is my land and I am part of it,  
Athink I'm clay from in the heart of it,  
kin to everything heron that grows;  
I My blood its rivers, breath its wind that blows. . .  
A cloud of green now hides its rocky scars.  
It sleeps beneath Kentucky sun and stars.

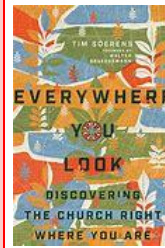
This poem by native son Jesse Stuart embraces the natural world that we call home and names many plants that are native to Kentucky. Native plants help keep the balance in our eco-culture by providing food and shelter for other species that share this corner of the world with us. An organization that focuses on awareness of native plants in Kentucky is KNPS or the Kentucky Native Plant Society, Its specific mission is to promote education, preservation and protection of native plants. It sponsors symposiums, events like visits to Kentucky's natural preserves and wildflower hikes in Ky. State Parks. More information about KNPS can be found at [www.knps.org](http://www.knps.org) or at Kentucky Native Plant Society, PO Box 46862, Frankfort, KY 40602. KNPS produces a newsletter quarterly entitled, "Lady Slipper."

### Save the Dates

March 14 & April 19—7:00pm

Book Discussion

*Everywhere You Look: Discovering the Church Right Where You Are* by T. Soerens



## Ash Wednesday Takes On A New Look

TRADITIONAL SERVICES OF ASHES MOVES ONLINE FOR 2021

The traditional beginning of the season of Lent starts with the marking of ashes as a sign of repentance. Your worship team spent time together this year scratching their heads as they brainstormed ways to continue this meaningful ritual given the realities of the pandemic. Could we send baggies of ashes to everyone? How about a drive through service with 6 foot long cotton swabs? While neither of those options made it into the final planning for Ash Wednesday, the worship team is confident we can safely and purposefully begin the season of Lent together with an Ash Wednesday service on Zoom.

This Ash Wednesday join in a virtual imposition of ashes during our Zoom worship at 7 PM. You'll receive items to use during the service in your Lent at Home kits, so be sure to get your kit before February 17. The invitation for worship will be available from the church office or you can send us a message on social media.



When you give to Week of Compassion, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world. Through sustainable development projects, our partners help provide life-giving water and other critical resources that help communities reinvent and reimagine what is possible. When water comes to a village, people are safer, healthier, and more free to pursue learning and growth opportunities. **Let love flow**, and share more than just water. Week of Compassion offerings are February 21 and 28.

~Thank You~

Dear Friends: A big thank you to all my beloved church family who have prayed for me and sent cards. There's no place I would rather be than FCC Morehead and no people I would rather share it with. I love you all.  
Brenda Combs

Dear FCC Board of Directors: Thank you so much for the Visa gift card. I am so grateful for the support I receive and especially appreciate this wonderful gift. It is my hope and prayer that FCC continues to thrive and fulfill the church mission.  
Barbara Marsh

Dear Church Family: I wanted to say thank you to the First Church family for your many expressions of sympathy during this time of grieving for and celebrating the life of my mother, Margaret Pryor. Your caring, your prayers, your cards, and your support have all been greatly appreciated.  
With heartfelt thanks, Bob Pryor

To Anne Buckner: Thank you for the much needed office supplies: post it notes, pens, and masks.  
FCC

Dear Congregation: On behalf of the volunteers, staff and patients at the People's Clinic, I sincerely thank you for your generous gift of \$2,000. Your commitment to help the uninsured and underinsured receive health care is sincerely appreciated. Thousands of patients have been treated at the clinic during its fifteen years of operation. Thanks again for your generous support of our efforts to build a healthier Eastern Kentucky. Most sincerely,  
Jim Brandenburg, Executive Director



Listen to sermon podcasts each week wherever you get your podcasts. Search for Sermons at Morehead FCC or use these links.

[Spotify](#)

[Google Podcasts](#)

[Pocket Casts](#)

(Hold down Ctrl key and place cursor on underlined name; click to link to podcast.)



*In Memoriam*

**Peggy Watkins  
Bizzel**

August 21, 1928

~

December 30, 2020

## *February Birthdays*



12- Brent Rogers  
12- Anthony Paschall  
17- Betty Hall  
18- Hedy Caldwell  
18- Alicia Carter  
20- Norm Lytle  
22- Atlas Ashford  
24- Susan Thomas

## **Public Parking at FCC**

Please contact the office to reserve a space.

Jan-July \$125  
Aug-Dec \$125



For more information, please contact the office (606) 784-4836 or [fcmky@gmail.com](mailto:fcmky@gmail.com).

Note this will not affect anyone who holds a parking permit with FCC.

**Opportunities for Connection**

**Women of the Bible Study**  
via Zoom

Tuesdays 7pm—7:30pm

Contact Sarah Chaney by email [sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com](mailto:sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com) or call (606) 207-2421 for an invitation.



**VESPERS** via Zoom

A time of song & prayer

Thursdays 7pm

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.



**New Committee Chairs Invite Congregation**

The Evangelism Committee works to maintain connections and an evangelistic spirit within the congregation. Contact Mary Claire Williams @ (606) 776-8430 or [mc.williams@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:mc.williams@moreheadstate.edu).

Creation Care Committee strives to protect God's Creation. Contact Mark Etherton at 606-776-1745 or

**Address Change**

Jane Young Holbrook

131 Woodland Drive  
Somerset, KY 42501

**Mack Fund (Techology)**

*In memory of*

**Peggy Bizzel**

**Brian M. Small Sr.**  
(Stacy Baker's stepfather)

by

Fran Helphinstine & Rob Sloss

Marge & Dan Thomas

Anne Buckner



*In memory of*

**Rev. Harold Tackett**

by

Marge & Dan Thomas

Anne Buckner



*In memory of*

**Margaret Pryor**  
(Bob Pryor's mother)

by

Anne Buckner

Ginny & Mark Etherton



*In memory of*

**Peggy Bizzel**

by

Ginny & Mark Etherton

Sherry Hill McEwan & Bob McEwan

Rhonda and William Collier

**But whoever loves God is known by God.**

1 Corinthians 8:3

**Living Memorial Fund**

*In memory of*

**Rev. Harold Tackett**

**Margaret Pryor**  
(Bob Pryor's mother)

by

Fran Helphinstine & Rob Sloss

David Perkins



*In memory of*

**Brian M. Small Sr.**  
(Stacy Baker's stepfather)

by

David Perkins



*In memory of*

**Peggy Bizzel**

by

David Perkins

**General Operating Fund**

*In memory of*

**Jack Jerome Landreth**

by

Sherry Hill McEwan & Bob McEwan

**January Treasurer's Report**

Income for the first four Sundays is \$7,635.00. Expenses for the period are \$8,569.77.

**Kroger Donation**

FCC has received a Community Partner donation from Kroger for **\$188.59** for the quarter ending 12.31.20.

## Housewarming Baskets for Gateway Homeless Shelter

Sign-ups available now.

Please visit the Sign-up Genius link below to choose items to donate to homeless families transitioning into a new home. Items are due by the 10th of each month and should be placed in the Adult Sunday School Classroom just inside the 1<sup>st</sup> floor door.

You may bring items monthly or all ten months' items at once. Gateway Home Baskets outreach run February through October.

Contact Ronetta Brown with any questions or concerns at [ronettabrown67@gmail.com](mailto:ronettabrown67@gmail.com) or (606)776-0576.



Jeff and Ronetta Brown  
Outreach Co-chairs



Link: [Gifts for Gateway Homeless Shelter Sign Up](#)

## FCC Lenten Film Festival

CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH THROUGH THE MOVIES



Our Advent Film Festival explored the power of music to inspire and empower change on both personal and global levels. For Lent in 2021 the popular conversations return on Sunday evenings at 7 PM. Each week participants will watch a film on their own and then join a weekly discussion about that week's offering.

Films for the series include *Of Gods and Men*, a story of Trappist monks in Algeria during the civil war in 1996, struggling with issues of coexistence, pacifism, love of neighbor, and discerning the call of God. Available to rent on [Amazon Prime](#). We'll watch the independent film *What*



*Was Ours* which chronicles tribal members living on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming as they seek to recover ancestral artifacts which were taken away and are stored in a museum and in a church archive. This documentary is available to stream free with [Amazon Prime](#). The film lineup for Lent is still being developed. Look for more information in our weekly e-Blasts and on social media. Contact the church office or send us a message to receive a Zoom link invitation.



### VALENTINES FOR CHRISTIAN CARE COMMUNITIES RESIDENTS

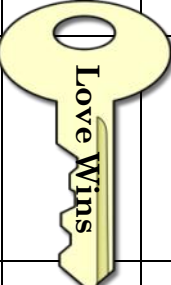


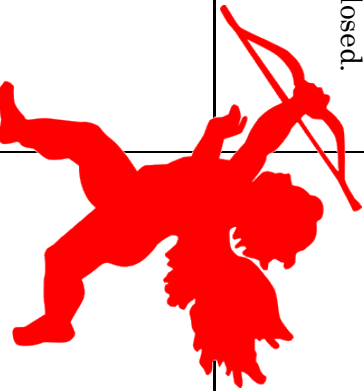
Outreach Committee Collection Dates: February 1 – 10, 2021

Valentine's Day represents the celebration of LOVE, but for some – especially Older Adults – many feel lonely and isolated during this time of the pandemic. If you would like to help, please bring or mail Valentine cards to the church by February 10 for distribution to CCC. This will bring a smile and encouragement to the wonderful residents. Ronetta said she would make a Valentine Box and place it at the downstairs entrance for us to drop in cards and envelopes.



## First Christian February 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Virtual Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-1pm						
<b>January 31</b> Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service via Facebook 5th Sunday Offering for Christian Care Communities	1	2 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7m Email sarah.chaney78@ yahoo.com to join.		4 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm. Email office for Zoom link.		3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.
7 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service via Facebook		9 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah. chaney78@yahoo. com to join.	10 7pm Bell Choir	11 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm.	12 Office closed.	13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.
14 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service via Facebook	15 <b>President's Day</b> Office closed.	16 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm Email sarah.chaney 78@yahoo.com.	17 <b>Ash            Wednesday</b> Service 7pm via Zoom	18 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm.	19 Office closed.	20 Whoever does not love does not know God, be- cause God is love.
21 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45am Worship Service via Facebook Newsletter articles due. Week of Compassion Offering	22 Bless this Mess Tea Time 3pm via Zoom	23 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah.chaney78@ yahoo.com to join.	24 7pm Bell Choir	25 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm.	26 Office closed.	23 
28 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45 Worship Service via Facebook; 1:00 Installation of Pastor Nancy via Zoom Week of Compassion Offering	March 1 Bless this Mess Tea Time 3pm via Zoom	March 2 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah. chaney78@yahoo.com	3 7pm Bell Choir	4 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm	.	.

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](mailto:fccmky@gmail.com)

Due to COVID19—our office is closed  
until further notice.

Website: [www.fccmorehead.org](http://www.fccmorehead.org)

[www.facebook.com/fccmorehead](http://www.facebook.com/fccmorehead)



Join us for livestream  
Sunday Worship Ser-  
vice @ 10:45am

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[www.instagram.com/  
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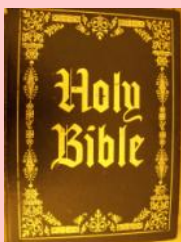
[www.youtube.com/  
user/TheInterper](http://www.youtube.com/user/TheInterper)



[www.twitter.com/  
fccmorehead](http://www.twitter.com/fccmorehead)



**Bible Lectionary Readings  
for the Month**



February 7- Mark 1:29-39

February 14- Mark 9:2-9

February 21- Mark 1:9-15

February 28- Mark 8:31-38;  
Mark 9:2-9

## Service of Installation for Pastor Nancy

FEBRUARY 28 AT 1 PM ON ZOOM

She's been leading us in worship since July of 2020, but we have yet to hold a service of installation for Pastor Nancy. Rather than wait until we can join together in the sanctuary together, we're trying something new—a virtual installation service. After our live Facebook worship service, you'll want to join us on Zoom Sunday, February 28, at 1:00 PM. Our transitional regional minister Dean Phelps will join in the celebration.



Reverend Nancy Gowler

An invitation to the Zoom service will be sent out with our weekly worship information email before the service.



Reverend Dean Phelps

## Bless this Mess Tea Time

JOIN PASTOR NANCY FOR WEEKLY CONVERSATIONS OVER TEA MONDAYS

This year's Lenten devotionals are a collection of devotional cards with prayers, spiritual practices, and conversation questions. Each Monday Pastor Nancy will host an informal Zoom gathering for tea and conversation using the prompt questions for that week. So brew a pot of tea, log onto Zoom and get to know others as we journey through Lent together. Email the church office or send us a message on social media to have an invitation to the Zoom Tea Time sent to you.



*May God bless you and keep you!  
May the radiant face of God shine upon you  
in our Lenten journey from ashes to crocuses.  
In the name of the One who walks with us,  
Amen.*