

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

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The Echo

First Christian Church of Morehead

Volume 22 Issue 2

February 2022



EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT

A Zoom Class

with Dr. Jerry Sumney
Lexington Theological Seminary

TUESDAYS at 7 pm ET Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15

REGISTER [HERE](#)

Questions: Central Christian Church 859-233-1551

Message from the President

Greetings Church Family,

How great it was to be back in church after a couple of weekends of snow. What a special blessing it was this past Sunday to have our Choir back. Beautiful music, Choir. Thank you, Genny, Isaiah and all the choir.



Anne Buckner
President

We are entering the season of Epiphany, the revealing of God in everyday, ordinary lives and in the unexpected corners of our world. During the season of Epiphany, we look for the Light of the World pushing through the shadows and finding its way into our lives. As we journey through this season, may we take the time to be more aware and sensitive to God's enlightenment and inspiration that may be revealed to us.

I hope you are enjoying the history articles I have been sharing with you. This month's article is about Mrs. O. A. Burgess who dedicated her life to helping others not only here in the United States but also as a missionary around the world.

In closing, I pray for God's blessings for each of you. May you feel his love and grace as you go about doing his daily work. Sincerely, Anne

Notes From Pastor Nancy

*....As if St. Brigid once more
Had rigged up a ray of sun
Like the one she'd strung on air
To dry her own cloak on
(Hard-pressed Brigid, so
Unstoppably on the go)-
The damp and slump and unfair
Drag of the workday
Made light of and got through
As usual, brilliantly.*

—Seamus Heaney, "Clothes Shrine"

Dear Disciples,

The first of February is the feast day of St. Brigid, 5th century Celtic saint and Abbess of Kildare. Her origins are wrapped in mythology and legend, with stories most likely woven from pre-Christian traditions of the sun goddess Brigid. The stories surrounding her celebrate generosity and kindness, with common themes of strength and determination, perhaps even a bit of holy stubbornness! As the saying goes, many of the stories surrounding St. Brigid are true, and some of them actually happened.

One legend tells that Brigid was the child of a pagan chieftain and his slave wife, Broicsech, who was a Christian. Her mother worked with the dairy cows of the chief, and at dawn on February 1 as she was stepping across the doorway threshold into the barn, she gave birth to Brigid. Thresholds become an important part of traditions surrounding Brigid, including the placing of a woven cross at the entrance to the home. *Notes p2*



Reverend Nancy Gowler

Raised in the Christian faith of her mother, her generosity became stuff of legend. She would give food or milk to any poor person who came to her door. Her tendency to give so extravagantly angered her father so much he tried to put an end to her charity. One day she was cooking bacon, a hungry dog stuck its head inside the door. Of course the soft-hearted Brigid gave the poor hound pieces of the bacon to eat. Worried about what her father would say, she prayed over the bacon still in the pan. And when the group was being served, there was more bacon than before, enough for everyone.



The cross of St. Brigid

Eventually her father hoped to have the young Brigid married off, ridding his household of the girl who kept giving so much of his possessions away to the poor. Brigid had other ideas, and eventually he relented. Brigid left home to follow the religious life.

She would found the Abbey of Kildare, (Abbey of the Oak) a double monastery for nuns and monks. The story goes that when the bishop came to ordain her as Abbess, he was so “intoxicated with the grace of God” he instead prayed the prayer of blessing for a bishop over her. The abbey also contained a school of art, renowned for metal work and manuscript illumination.

I stumbled across stories of St. Brigid as I was learning about the histories of Celtic Christianity. She is an intriguing bridge figure between the ancient indigenous traditions of Ireland and the growing Christian presence on the island. She is the patron saint of many traditions—of midwives (there’s a marvelous legend of angels carrying her back to Bethlehem to attend to Mary at the birth of Jesus); of artists; and yes, of brewers. There are several stories of Brigid performing miracles with water, milk, and even ale. The story goes that she supplied ale out of her barrel to eighteen churches in the area, enough to carry the churches through from Maundy Thursday to the end of Easter. One 10th century song to Brigid imagines her gift to God in heaven to be a lake of beer with all the faithful gathered round, *“I’d sit with the men, the women and God, there by the lake of beer. We’d be drinking good health forever, and every drop would be a prayer.”*

From the stories of St. Brigid we find inspiration for generous living, for an attention to the presence of the sacred in the everyday-ness of our lives, and a joyous embrace of living in the ways of Jesus. Seamus Heaney’s lovely poem “Clothes Shrine” elevates the ordinariness of hanging up laundry with an awareness of the Holy in the mundane. On this February 1, may the welcoming ways of St. Brigid be an inspiration to us.

Be well,
be kind,
and always be the church where you are.

Pastor Nancy

Choir & Bells



Genny Jenkins
Music Director

Our sanctuary choir and bell choir will continue to be in the sanctuary this month for Sunday services to support the worship experience of the congregation. And on February 13, Andrew Preston will be joining us for worship as well. A big thanks for all our interns and choir/bell members for their dedication to the music ministry of FCC!



Sarah Chaney
Bells Director

Genny

Our Beginnings—A History and Comment

from *Churches of Christ: A Historical, Biographical, and Pictorial History of the Churches of Christ in the United States, Australasia, England and Canada* by John T. Brown, article by Helen E. Moses, adapted by Anne Reynolds Buckner



Nancy L. Burgess was Christian Women's Board of Missions President. After her death in 1902 Burgess Hall was named in her honor at Morehead Normal School.

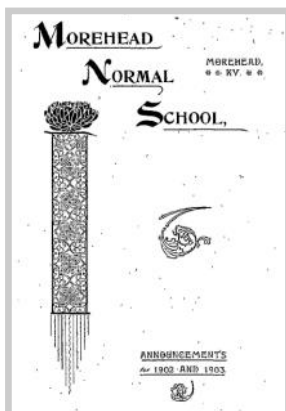
Founding of Morehead & Normal School

Nancy J. "Nannie" Ledgerwood Burgess (1836-1902)

Nannie Ledgerwood was born in Washburn, Illinois, on July 12, 1836. As a child she was slight and delicate in body, retiring and modest in disposition, absolutely truthful in her nature and possessed of a resolute will. The home into which Nannie Ledgerwood was born was thoroughly Christian. Her father and mother were whole-hearted in their devotion to Christ. Her maternal grandfather, Henry Palmer, was a pioneer preacher of the Churches of Christ, a man of great originality and forcefulness. At 16 she left her home to attend Eureka College. Her health did not permit her to finish the course of study but the influence of her stay there was felt throughout her life. On October 17, 1854 at the age of eighteen, she married Otis Asa Burgess. After her husband's death in 1882 she returned to the old home at Forrest, Illinois, where Mr. Burgess' body had been laid to rest, that she might there make a home for her father and mother. She remained until after her mother's death.

At this time the national President and Secretary of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, Mrs. Maria Jameson, and Mrs. Sarah Shortridge wrote her urging her to come to Indianapolis that she might be of more service to the work of this organization. After careful deliberation, she decided to make a new home in Indianapolis, Indiana where she had formerly lived when her husband had been successively minister of the Central church, President of Northwestern Christian University and Butler College. When the Christian Woman's Board of Missions was organized in 1874, Mrs. Burgess was elected to serve as national Treasurer, which position she filled until 1878. While she was a resident of Illinois she served as a state officer. In 1887 she was chosen vice-president and in 1890 she was made president of the organization. In this position she remained until God released her.

As an executive she was strong, wise, prudent and forceful. Her counsel was safe, her judgment almost unerring and her faith strong. She knew the work intimately, loved it tenderly yet wisely, and served it with an absolutely unselfish devotion. Her public ministrations were but an incident in her services to the organization. Twelve months in each year she thought of, planned for and faithfully served the work. She had breadth of vision, knowledge of men and women, and above all, faith in God. These she brought to the service of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions and by these she blessed its enterprises. Every field in which the organization labored was thoroughly familiar to her. She knew the missionaries personally and prayed for them by name.



Morehead Normal School (now Morehead State University) was founded in 1887, with Mrs. Phebe E. Button and F. C. Button as teachers, and with one pupil in attendance the first day. Each succeeding year brought to the school a large measure of success. The liberality of Gen. Wm. T. Withers of Lexington, KY made the school possible; the generosity of Hon. T. F. Hargis of Louisville, KY provided for the first school house and the grounds for all the buildings; a gift from Robert Hodson and wife of Oquakwa, IL became the basis of a fund for the erection of a boarding hall. For thirteen years it had been supported by the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention. On July 31, 1900 it passed under the control of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions. Under the new management, the buildings were repaired and enlarged, the number of teachers were increased, the courses of study were strengthened, and a new epoch in its history was begun.

[Morehead Normal School 1902-1903 Catalog](#)

First Christian Sunday School Class 1957

Help us identify missing names.



Row 1 from top steps down to first step:

Eddie Holbrook, ____, Jimmy Williams, Kathy Bradley

Next row: ____, Bobby Wells

Next row: Martha Cline, ____

Next row: Carlos Hill, Debbie Williams, ____

Next row: ____, Leslie Williams, Rosemary Carlson

Next row: George Burgess, Sally Caudill, Carla Fannin

Bottom step: C.G. (Tim) Clayton, Bobby Mays, Crosley Caudill

Sunday School Teacher: Linda Bryant??

Disciples Websites

[Cane Ridge Meeting](#) [Disciples News Service](#)

[Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\)](#)

[Disciples Home Missions](#)

[Lexington Theological Seminary](#)

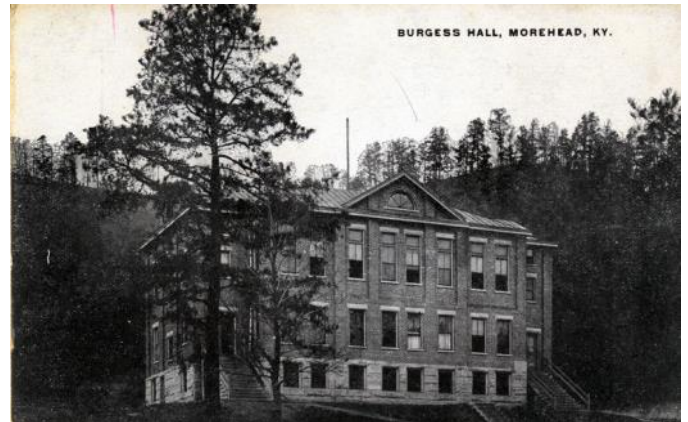
[Mission Behind Bars and Beyond](#)

[Week of Compassion Disciples of Christ](#)

History of Morehead Normal School

Christian Women's Board of Missions 1906 newspaper article from [MSU Scholarworks](#)

Submitted by Anne Buckner



Burgess Hall, Morehead Normal School

Kentucky's special work for year 1906 is the new dormitory at Morehead, support of three missionaries, and two students in the Mountain Schools. This necessitates raising \$7,000. Only two more weeks now remain in which to meet our obligations, before the State Convention in Louisville. Let all offerings and reports go in at once.

Not many schools in eastern Kentucky have such splendid grounds and buildings as the Morehead Normal School. The school campus contains about seventy-five acres, and is the site of six buildings occupied by the teacher and students. The main school building contains five classrooms and a library. Burgess Hall contains the large assembly room with a seating capacity of 500. Henson Hall is the home for the young ladies, and will accommodate seventy-five or eighty. The new dormitory for young men will accommodate seventy-five. Building is heated by furnace and lighted by electricity.

The National Board will enlarge the dining rooms of both the Mountain Schools, building new kitchens, store rooms, bath and other needed additions, which will greatly add to the comfort and convenience of teacher and pupil. Professor Button is the efficient principal of the Morehead school and Professor H. J. Derthick, a man of ability and consecration, is the newly elected principal of the Hazel Green Academy.

Ways to Help Others

5th Sunday Offering

Sunday, January 30
for Christian Care
Communities

All donations received will be collected and forwarded as one check to CCC.

Contact Treasurer Joe Barrett.

Enhancing the journey of life for older adults since 1884.

[Christian Care Communities](#)



Camp Wakon'Da-Ho New Bathhouse & Pool Campaign

Please consider donating for needed upgrades.

[Donate to the camp renovation online](#)

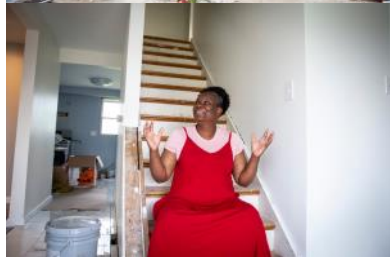


Week of Compassion Special Offering



Special Offering | February 20-27

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.



January Treasurer's Report (first 4 Sundays)

Income \$5,977.59

Expenses \$7,673.39

FCC received a check for **\$188.08** as part of **Kroger's Community Reward Program**. Thank you for partnering with us in Kroger Community Rewards, the community fundraising program. The amount represents a portion of the purchases for the previous quarter (OctNovDec 2021).

Mack Fund

In memory of

George Carlos Hill

by

Ginny & Mark Etherton



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

Kentucky Disciples Women's Choral Retreat

March 4-6, 2022

Middletown Christian
Church. Last day to
register is January 31, 2022.



[Information](#) [Registration](#)

Opportunities for Connection

Women of the Bible Study via Zoom

Tuesdays 7:00—7:30pm
Contact Sarah Chaney by email
sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com
or call (606) 207-2421.

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### VESPERS via Zoom



A time of song &  
prayer

Thursdays 7:00pm

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. [Contact office for Zoom Invitation.](#)

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We welcome those who want
to join committees.

Congregational Life Committee

Mary Claire Williams @
(606) 776-8430

mc.williams@moreheadstate.edu

Creation Care Committee

Mark Etherton @
606-776-1745

ginn1@windstream.net

Education Committee

Sarah Chaney @
606-207-2421

sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com

Chalice Prayer Ministry

Maggie Miles
606-776-4769

holistichealingwithmaggiemiles@gmail.com

SHARING THE LOVE THIS FEBRUARY

Housewarming Baskets for Gateway

We will begin signups for the housewarming baskets this month. FCC congregation and friends generously support Gateway Homeless Shelter's mission of transitioning homeless families into a home of their own. Each month, we provide a housewarming "shower" for one family. We recently spoke with the folks at Gateway to ask if we needed to adjust the items we bring each month, and they said everything we bring is needed and is put to use as their families transition from homelessness. Gateway and the families greatly appreciate this shower of love from FCC!

How it works:

- Go to the link below to sign up.
- Purchase 8 of the items for which you sign up.
- Bring all 8 items at once OR Bring ONE item by the 10th of EACH month, beginning March 10th.
- Due dates for items: March 10, April 10, May 10, June 10, July 10, August 10, September 10, October 10.
- Place items in the classroom just inside the first-floor entrance.

Link to sign up for Housewarming Baskets:

[Gateway Homeless Shelter Basket Sign Up](#)

You may contact Jeff or Ronetta Brown at (606)776-0576 with any questions. Thanks in advance on behalf of the Outreach Committee and the folks at Gateway Homeless Shelter and Christian Care Communities!



from Christian Care Communities...

At Christian Care Communities, we want our residents to feel the love on Valentine's Day, now less than a month away. Christian Care is asking you to send either handmade or store-bought Valentine(s) to our residents, as some don't have family or friends who are able to visit regularly. We know we can count on our communities throughout Kentucky to help. Please ask your family, church, school, youth group, and office to help spread some happiness to our older adults on Valentine's Day!

Thank you, and Happy Valentine's Day!

*FCC Morehead will once again make Valentines for residents of our closest Christian Care Community - Friendship House in Grayson, Kentucky. You may leave your cards in the Valentine Box just inside the first floor church entrance. Jeff and Ronetta Brown will pick up the cards on **Wednesday, February 9th** to ensure they get to the residents by Valentine's Day.*



A Simple Creation Care Strategy

Prior to pandemic, recycled plastics comprised **only 9%** of all plastic waste. Now with spread of the virus there has been a reemergence of "single use" plastics, **increasing utilization of plastics worldwide**. So, there is an even greater need to **reuse & reduce plastic**. To this end, prior to recycling plastic freezer bags at nearest recycling drop-off, reuse them multiple times by **washing each bag** after use, then drying them. While such a "reuse" strategy is limited in volume, it saves energy that comes with having to dismantle & re-manufacture products



FCC Creation Care Corner

Would you like to share in the discussion?

The committee meets monthly for a Zoom time of sharing.

February's meeting will be on Wednesday, February 9—7:00pm.

To request an invitation, please contact Mark Etherton at cell (606) 776-1745.

Graphic by Lola Smith.

First Christian February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Services are in-person and online (Facebook & YouTube). Please join us each Sunday morning.	Office hours Monday-Thursday 8:30-1:00pm	1 Women's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00pm	2 Bells 5:00pm Choir 7:00pm	3 Vespers via Zoom 7:00pm	4	5
6 10:45am Worship Service	7	8 Women's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00pm	9 Valentines due for CCC Bells 5:00pm Choir 7:00pm Creation Care-(Zoom) 7:00pm	10 Vespers via Zoom 7:00pm	11 Office closed.	12
13 10:45am Worship Service	14 Valentine's Day	15 Women's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00pm	16 Bells 5:00pm Choir 7:00pm	17 Vespers via Zoom 7:00pm	18 Office closed.	19
20 Week of Compassion Special Offering 10:45am Worship Service Cave Run Symphony 3:00pm	21 Presidents' Day Office closed.	22. Women's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00pm	23 Bells 5:00pm Choir 7:00pm	24 Vespers via Zoom 7:00pm	25 Office closed.	26
27 Week of Compassion Special Offering 10:45am Worship Service Newsletter articles due.	28 Executive/ Full Board Mtgs via Zoom 6:30/7pm	March 1 Shrove Tuesday Women's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00pm	2 Ash Wednesday	3 Vespers via Zoom 7:00pm	4 Kentucky Women's Choral Retreat 4-6 Office closed.	5
6 10:45am Worship Service	7	8 Women's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00pm	9 Bells 5:00pm Choir 7:00pm	10 Vespers via Zoom 7:00pm	11	12 MSU Spring Break March 14-18

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Nancy Gowler, Minister
Genny Jenkins, Music Director
Isaiah Florence, Keyboardist
Sarah Chaney, Bells
Mia Caudill, Nursery
Barbara Marsh, Secretary
227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-4836

Monday-Thursday 8:30-1pm
Email: fccmky@gmail.com

Website: fccmorehead.org

Sunday Services are in person
and online at 10:45AM



facebook.com/fccmorehead



youtube.com/user/TheInterper



instagram.com/fccmorehead



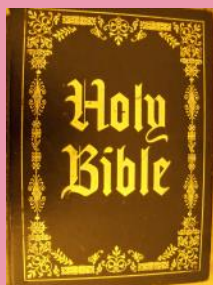
twitter.com/fccmorehead



flickr.com/photos/139711677@N02

Bible Lectionary Readings

Disciples of Christ



Feb 6—Luke 5:1-11
Feb 13—Luke 6:17-26
Feb 20—Luke 6:27-38
Feb 27—Luke 9:28-36,
(37-43a)

COME VISIT US AND BRING A FRIEND

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH ON A JOURNEY TOGETHER

Our church family is very special to us. There is a spiritual quality among the members and friends which is warm and inviting. We care for our community through outreach and support of school and



homeless agencies. We invite everyone to be a part of the congregation through committees and service, helping others in their time of need. We are meeting in-person in our sanctuary for worship services, with all safety precautions in place due to COVID19/variants. The service is available on-line through Facebook and YouTube. The music ministry consists of organ, choir, bells and MSU choir

interns. We regularly have guest musicians including harpist, cellist, soloists, and instrumental groups.

You can connect with a Tuesday Women's Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00pm or with Vespers on Thursday at 7:00pm. Church committees meet regularly. We'd love to have your participation in any of these activities. Contact information is on p5.



Our traditions run deep in this community, being one of the first churches to be established in Rowan county. Our history is deeply connected to Morehead State University with Dr. Frank Button as one of our first ministers (1887) and also president of MSU (Morehead Normal School.)

Our minister is Reverend Nancy Gowler. She is in her second year with us. We are so blessed to have her leading our church and community. You may listen to her sermons by following this link:

[Pastor Nancy Sermons](#) (ctrl + click)