

VOL. 24 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2024

# THE ECHO

a newsletter of the First Christian Church of Morehead, Kentucky

## Season of Lent begins February 14

Soon the church year transitions into Lent, a season of preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. The roots of the word “Lent” are in the old English word, “lenten” meaning “lengthen” and relatedly, “spring.” It draws from the northern hemisphere’s experience of the coming of spring, the lengthening of sunlight hours, and the promises of new life the spring brings each year.

Early church practices included the preparation of candidates for baptism in the six weeks leading up to Easter. Over time the entire church community would come alongside those baptismal candidates, reflecting on their own baptism through the 40 days of Lent. The Lenten practices of fasting and prayer created a communal bond and common focus.

This Lent we will be exploring this idea of lengthening during Lent.

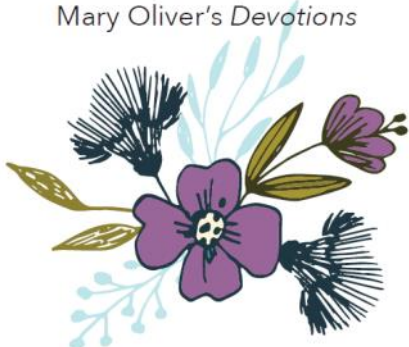
How does our experiences of the lengthening of time expand our understanding of Christ’s call to abundant living?

How can these days broaden our spiritual journey?

What gifts do these days of preparation hold for us?

## THE POETRY of LENT

A Lenten Companion to  
Mary Oliver’s *Devotions*



Our 2024 FCC Lenten devotional, *The Poetry of Lent: A Lenten Companion to Mary Oliver’s ‘Devotions’*, will serve as a guide for our way through these weeks of preparation. Copies of the devotional will be available on February 11. To receive a digital copy of the devotional, please contact the church office. You may wish to purchase a copy of Mary Oliver’s poetry collection, *Devotions*. The book is available for purchase through CoffeeTree Books. The poems used in the devotional are also available online.

*Instructions for living a life:*

*Pay attention.*

*Be astonished.*

*Tell about it.*

— from “Sometimes,” in *Devotions*  
by Mary Oliver

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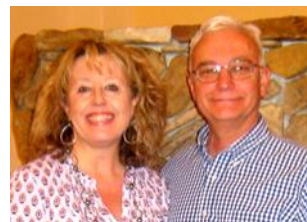
First Christian Church  
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# Outreach Committee Update

RONETTA & JEFF BROWN, CO-CHAIRS



## Valentines for Our Elderly Friends

The outreach committee will be sending a second round of food gift cards to the elderly folks we helped at Christmas. Committee members Elizabeth Ash and Connie Kibbey, with help from friend Sunshine Stamper, created a lovely handmade Valentine Card for each elderly individual. When the committee meets again on February 7<sup>th</sup>, members will place the gift card and notes inside each card to let the individuals know they are in our thoughts and prayers this Valentine's Day.

## Woodcutting Day Planned

Members and friends of the outreach committee will be meeting at the home of Dan and Marge Thomas to cut firewood for needy families on Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. This group meets several times a year to stock the firewood reserves at Christian Social Services. If you would like to get involved in this ministry, please contact Bob Pryor.

## Gateway Housewarming Baskets

Our new year has begun and the Outreach Committee invites you help with the monthly housewarming basket we gather for those transitioning from the Gateway Homeless Shelter. Donations may be made through Sign Up Genius.

### Pertinent information:

- 9 of each item needed
- First items due February 15th; subsequent items due the 10th of each month. Collection area is in the Fellowship Hall (basement floor).
- Donors may choose to bring items each month, several at one time, or all the first month.

Access Sign Up Genius here: [Gateway Housewarming Basket](https://www.signupgenius.com) or visit [signupgenius.com](https://www.signupgenius.com) and search for our email address, [fccmky@gmail.com](mailto:fccmky@gmail.com).

## Welcome New Members

We would like welcome new members Sasha Reinhardt and Susan Whidden to the Outreach Committee.

**If you would like to be a part of the outreach work at FCC, we would love to have you!**  
**Our next meeting is February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.**



The Outreach Committee will distribute valentines and gift cards to the elderly folks who were identified by Christian Social Services for the Christmas outreach program. Designs by Connie Kibbey, Elizabeth Ash, and Sunshine Stamper.



Gateway House-warming baskets for those transitioning to a home are gathered each month February-October.

# MSU Outreach & FRYSC

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

A member of the Outreach Committee, Dr. Elizabeth Ash, was approached after a prior outreach activity of an ongoing nutritional need for the students of Rowan County Middle School. She partnered with students from Morehead State University, the Kinesiology & Health Club with assistance from the History Club (with Dr. Alana Scott's support) to help meet this need.



Throughout the fall semester, this group of individuals worked to collect enough food items that not only satisfied the needs of those middle school students in need, but also allowed the Family Resource & Youth Service Center (FRYSC) to provide additional assistance to elementary schools in the community.

This has become a project of passion for both Elizabeth and her students to help fill this need that is often missed in the community.

If you would like to help, please feel free to reach out to Elizabeth. She and her students are happy to shop for food items to deliver on behalf of First Christian Church of Morehead and MSU!



## History Corner

MEMORIES AND STORIES FROM THE PAST  
AT FCC MOREHEAD  
BY ANNE BUCKNER

Photo flashback from the pastoral era of Rev. Ray Allen.  
May 1956—August 1960.

Do you recognize any of these faces?

Pictured from left to right, bottom row to top.

Ina Helwig, May Williams, Mary Myers, Hildreth Maggard,  
Dora Williams, Maude Hogge, Etta Caudill, Ethel Patton,  
Nellie Jamison, Hazel Daughtery, Nelle Walters,  
Katherine Powers Hogge, Martha Belle Mays, Ellen Hudgins,  
Mamie Blair, Sallie Calvert, Elsie Cline, Addie Radar,  
Blanche Walters, Arye Lewis, Naomi Bayless, Bea Patton,  
Becky Patton, Lucille C., Edith Crosley, Clara Robinson.

*You can find more historic photos through the link on the Gallery page of our website, [fccmorehead.org](http://fccmorehead.org).*

# GIVING NEWS

## TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY 2024

General gifts and income	\$ 8,290.04
Expenses	\$ 9,450.73

## GIFTS TO MACK FUND

*in memory of*

**Karen (Cassity) Ross**

by Marge and Dan Thomas

## WAYS TO GIVE

Visit our webpage [fccmorehead.org](http://fccmorehead.org) to give online (through PayPal) or to set up direct debit from your bank account.



FCC GIVING



## THANK YOU

Dear First Christian Church members,  
We wish to thank you once again for your generosity in helping out our families in need. As always, we are so appreciative for your kindness and thoughtfulness. May the good Lord bless each of you!

— Charles Graham, RCSHS Youth Service Center Coordinator



## SPECIAL OFFERING 2024 FEBRUARY 18-25



As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

## Youth Update

PREPARING FOR SUMMER CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP WITH FCC MT. STERLING

The FCC Youth attended a screening of the movie *Selma* at the First Christian Church, Mount Sterling Church on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. This screening and discussion is part of an ongoing series leading up to a civil rights trip through Georgia and Alabama this summer.

FCC Youth 13+ are invited to go on the trip. For more information, please reach out to Pastor Nancy or Mary Claire.



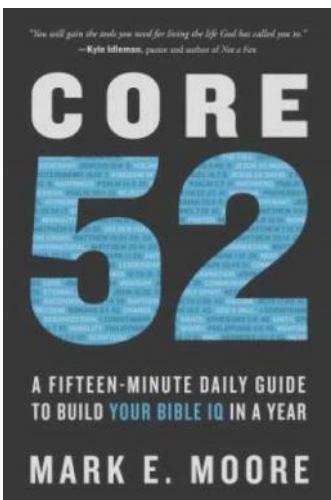
l to r: Mary Claire Williams, Ellie Williams, & Maddox Reinhardt attend screening of *Selma*.

## Pastor's Class Begins February 14

LENTEN SMALL GROUP FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN BAPTISM—WEDNESDAYS AT 4PM

During Lent Pastor Nancy will lead a small group in an exploration of faith and baptism. We'll delve into big ideas of God, faith, humankind, and the church. Together we'll ask questions about who we are as Disciples, what are the core practices of faith, and how do we create a lifetime journey of our Christian faith.

Anyone interested in baptism or in exploring the big questions of life and faith, contact Pastor Nancy for more information.



## Women's 2024 Bible Study

WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS BASED ON *CORE 52* BY MARK E. MOORE

Are you ready to read and discuss the bible in 2024? Come and join us as we discuss Mark Moore's *Core 52* and bible scriptures. Our Zoom meetings last a half an hour and begin at 7pm. Please contact the church office or Sarah Chaney if you interested.

It is a beautiful thing to experience God's love through another Christian friend. It brings new perspective. It reminds us how we should treat others and it encourages us to spread that love onto the ones that cross our path.

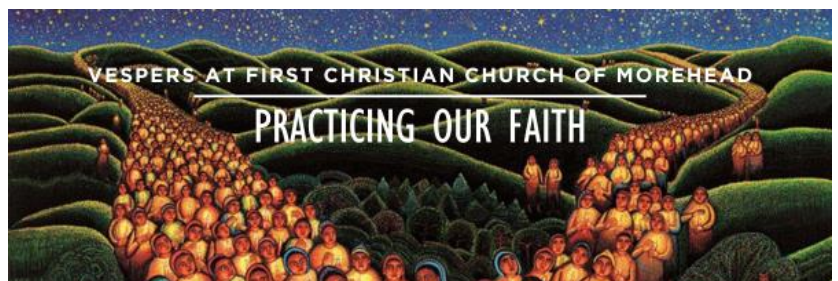
## Vespers on Zoom

THURSDAYS 7PM ET

Our weekly vespers gatherings explore spiritual practices through scripture, art, personal experiences, and prayer. Reading the book is not a requirement for participation in the Vesper Zoom conversations. Up first in the series—the Christian practice of honoring the body.

In 2024 our conversations will loosely follow the book, [Practicing Our Faith: a Way of Life for a Searching People](#), edited by Dorothy C. Bass. The book is available in print, as an e-book, and as an audiobook. Both the audiobook and e-book are available for free from the Rowan County Public Library using either the [Hoopla](#) or [Libby](#) app.

[Email](#) the office for an invitation or message us for a Zoom link.





## FCC Directory Is Now Online!

ACCESS DIRECTORY ONLINE OR THROUGH THE FREE MOBILE APP

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Have you updated your information in our new online church directory?

Our secure directory is now available. To view our directory online, visit [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

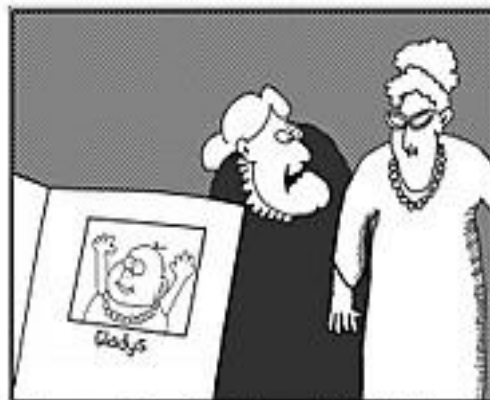
There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store, and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "Instant Church Directory" to get the app or use the QR codes below. You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

### Need help or have questions?

Please contact **Barbara Marsh at the church office (606) 784-4836.**

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:45-1:00pm.

Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com).



"Gladys, you really need to update your picture in the directory."



[iOS Mobile App  
QR Code](#)



[Android Mobile  
App QR Code](#)

## Welcome Riley!

MSU CHOIR INTERN



Riley Stephens is from Ashland, KY. She joined the FCC choir on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Riley is a double applied Music Education major in trumpet and vocal. She also plays the piano and is a soprano.

Riley joins our other MSU choir interns Mason Pack, Logan Smalley, and Kattie Webb.

## Extra Hotel Toiletries?

D.O.V.E.S. COLLECTING ITEMS FOR SHELTER

Do you have extra unopened hotel toiletry items taking up space in your bathroom?

We're now collecting small-sized personal toiletry bottles for guests at D.O.V.E.S., a local domestic violence shelter in Rowan County.

Bring your unopened bottles or soap bars to the church and place in our collection bin.



# February 2024

.Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 10:45am Worship	5	6 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	7 6pm Outreach committee 7pm Choir	8 7pm Vespers	9 Office closed.	10
11 10:45am Worship 2pm 2nd Sunday Hike	12	13 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 4pm Pastor's class 7pm Ash Wednesday service	15 7pm Vespers (Zoom)	16 Office closed.	17
18 <b>Week of Compassion Offering</b> 10:45am Worship 7pm Faith & Film (Zoom)	19 <b>President's Day</b> Office closed, 7pm Creation Care (Zoom)	20 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	21 4pm Pastor's class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	22 7pm Vespers (Zoom)	23 Office closed.	24
25 <b>Week of Compassion Offering</b> 10:45am Worship 7pm Faith & Film (Zoom) Newsletter articles due.	26	27 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	28 4pm Pastor's class 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir	29 7pm Vespers (Zoom)		



With prayer, song, confession, meditation, and ritual, communal worship services on Ash Wednesday center our focus for the season of Lent. Come to worship on Wednesday, February 14, at 7pm and find a welcoming space to begin again. Ash Wednesday can be a moment of reset, as we embrace the wonder of our creation and Christ's call to life abundant and free.

*Remember you are dust,  
blessed and holy dust,  
and to dust you will return.*

## Faith & Film for Lent

ONLINE CONVERSATIONS BEGIN FEBRUARY 18

Oscars talk is in the air these days, with blockbuster films, talented directors, actors, and storytellers up for the coveted awards. Films inspire us; entertain us, and at times move us to tears. They tell stories and seek to delve issues of truth, meaning, and human existence.

Our 2024 Faith & Film series highlights recent films, some popular, others which may have slipped through unnoticed. Each week, participants watch the film on their own and then join a Zoom conversation on Sunday at 7pm, to explore themes and connections.

Message the church office or Pastor Nancy for an invitation to the 2024 Lent Faith & Film conversations.



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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Place  
Stamp  
Here

