

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

First
Christian
Church
(Disciples of Christ)



The Echo

Volume 19 Issue 1

January 2019

PLEASE JOIN US

First Sunday



Jan
6

BRUNCH 12-2pm

Hostesses this month are Connie Kibbey, Elizabeth Ash, and Jennifer Arrowwood.

Please bring your favorite breakfast food.

From the **Creation Care Team:**

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."

Genesis 2:15 RSV

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1 NIV



Susan Thomas
FCC President

It is very clear from reading these verses that you and I are part of God's plan for caring for all that God has created. We are called to use wisely this amazing "garden of Eden" that God has given us so that "all who live in it" might enjoy its fruits for generations to come.

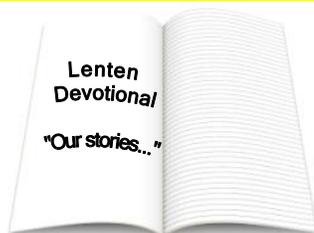
This year's Epiphany stars seek to remind us of our role in God's plan for being keepers of this beautiful world so that all our brothers and sisters around the globe might live with "enough." We pray that you will seek each day to discern how God is calling you to action through your Epiphany word(s). May we encourage each other to live as though

we really believe that "the earth is the Lord's" and we are God' hands and feet to "till it and keep it." *Susan Thomas*



Green Chalice Update

As a result of applying for a rebate from Kentucky Utilities, we will receive a check for \$230 for installing LED light fixture upgrades in Fellowship Hall.



Speak to Me of Joy and Sorrow: Our Lenten Journey

Dear FCC: As we begin a new year, the Worship Committee is looking towards the coming Lenten season during some planning sessions. We would like to put together an FCC Lenten devotional booklet with a meditation/devotional for each day of Lent. Our Lenten theme will be "Speak to Me of Joy and Sorrow: Our Lenten Journey." We would like to ask each of you to contribute something for the booklet. Please consider writing a short (2 - 3 paragraphs

max) offering that could be used as a daily meditation. You may link your meditation to a particular piece of scripture if you like, or we will put the daily lectionary on the page instead. We would like you to **share a story** about how a struggle in your life led you to joy or how you persevered through a trying time or how God helped you through a time in your life that was difficult. The hope is that our stories will lift each other up as we journey together towards Easter. Please send your contribution to genny.jenkins@rowan.kyschools.us or give it in written form to Genny Jenkins by **Sunday, February 24** (so that we'll have time to get them printed before Lent begins).

Thank you so much, Reverend Chase and the Worship Committee

Cutting the Apron Strings



Reverend Don Chase

Methodist pastor Maxie Dunham tells the story of a young man who left home for college. His mother had helped him pack and then drove him to his new dormitory. After a warm hug, she quickly and quietly left him to get settled on his own. As he was unpacking his suitcase, he found his shirts and pants and underwear all carefully stacked. And tucked in with them were two long narrow strips of cloth, neatly ironed and folded. He had no idea what they were at first. But then looking at them closely, he recognized their pattern. *These were the strings from his mother's apron.* And she had cut them off — in order to set him free.

Spiritually speaking, “*cutting the apron strings*,” has been a rather lengthy process as I’ve sought to find my own voice and being comfortable in “my own skin.” I thought about this difficult process again this week when hearing from a former student and he shared these words:

“My entire life I was told what to be, what to do and how to act. I was told if I acted in certain ways I would go to Heaven and if I acted in other ways I would go to Hell. I lived in perpetual fear of Hell because I could never match the way I was instructed to live.

To this day I still struggle with the thought of missing the mark and receiving eternal damnation because of my shortcomings. The lies of this world and present age are powerful manipulators of our conscience. The liars seek to control through fear and do not want us to live in love. There is no fear in love.

Our experiences are ours and there is no right or wrong or good or bad to experience...it just...is. I have missed so much of my life by being concerned about the future and fearful of my mistakes. I have often missed the present reality of being in the moment.

God loves you and has ordained your steps. He has a perfect plan for you and you alone. You are already perfect in every way. Do you struggle with feeling loved and accepted? Have you felt judgement and condemnation from your religious leaders? How have you found acceptance, joy and contentment?”

My sense is that fear — more than anything else — keeps us from embracing our unique voice and authentic self. Fear, really? Yes. Fears, both internally and externally driven, often prevent us from living authentic lives. Fear of our experiences, beliefs, lack of conformity, that we just don’t measure up, or an almost pathological desire for acceptance are powerful reasons to keep the apron strings firmly tied!

This Sunday (January 6) is Epiphany, sometimes known as “theophany.” Epiphany simply means “manifestation” — the manifestation of God in our life. My sense is that the feast of Epiphany never gets the attention it deserves, often assuming a lower-level tier on the church’s liturgical calendar.

Traditionally, Epiphany is forever linked with the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. Speaking before the World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany in 2005, Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the transformational potential of the Epiphany: *“Outwardly, their journey was now over. They had reached their goal. But at this point a new journey began for them, an inner pilgrimage which changed their whole lives. ... They had to change their ideas about power, about God and about man, and in so doing, they also had to change themselves. Now they were able to see that God’s power is not like that of the powerful of this world. God’s ways are not as we imagine them or as we might wish them to be.”*

It is past time to cut off the apron strings. This Epiphany, as Christ continues to manifest himself in our lives, let us, too, seek to be changed anew.

Glad to be your Pastor,
Don



Acolyte Schedule

Jan 6—Keyairah Bailey Jan 13—Ellie Williams Jan 20—John Akers Jan 27—Eliza McGillicuddy

Why Become a Member?

A frequently asked question around here is “Why is it important that I become a member? If I am invited to participate in communion, worship, and fellowship by attending—why should I join?” We offer several reasons why we encourage people to join.

- Our church provides a distinct voice within this community. We are a unique group of believers. By formally joining, you are adding your voice to ours. You are saying, ‘I am glad there is a church like this in Morehead.’
- When you are a member, you have voting power. In congregational decisions and in choosing elders and diaconate members, you have a say. You also have the opportunity to serve as a committee chair.
- Community thrives on commitment. Membership is a way of telling those around you: ‘I am here for you, and I know you are here for me.’

There are several ways of becoming a member of the First Christian Church. One is by **public confession of faith** in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior followed by baptism. If you have already been baptized, there is no requirement to be re-baptized.

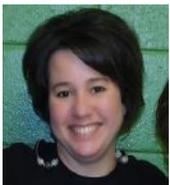
You may come by **transfer of membership** from another congregation. Or, if you are a member of another church, but wish to affiliate with our congregation (for instance, if you are a college student or your home church is not close by), you may join by **Watchcare**. This allows for all the privileges of membership.

An invitation is extended after the sermon at almost all services of worship. We encourage speaking with the pastor before such a time, but it is not essential. Come and serve God with us!



A Note from the Creation Care Team

"Rich and poor have this in common: the Lord made them both."
Proverbs 22:2



Genny Jenkins

Choir—Bells

Earlier in December, we said farewell to our interns - some of whom had been with us for several years! In mid-January we will welcome four new faces to FCC: Anna Grayson, Bailey Hobbs, Brian Merriman, and Bugs Reinhardt. The choir is very excited to work with these young people and I know you will make them welcome.

Before the choir returns, we will have the Bells on January 6th at the Epiphany service and Eric Brown will be coming to sing on January 13. **Genny Jenkins**, Choir Director



MSU Choir Interns at December 16 Worship Service. (left to right) Ashley Denny, Ross Haney, Genny Jenkins (choir director), and Andrew Hall.

~Thank You~

~ Thank you to Yvonne Baldwin for creating and Phillip Swim and Sarah Chaney for help installing the four new homasote bulletin boards near the downstairs entrance. The large framed portraits of church and MSU founders Frank and Phoebe Button have been moved here to compliment the inviting new look. Yvonne continues to bless us with her creativity.
FCC

~I would like to thank my first church family for your generous and thoughtful Christmas gift. You are a wonderful congregation, and Reneé and I count it one of greatest joys and blessings in ministry to journey with you. Thank you for privilege to be co-ministers with you. I love each of you. Again, thank you.

Shalom, Don & Reneé Chase

~Thank you for my Christmas gift card. It is such a pleasure to be able to assist with the mission of the church. I am grateful for the support I receive on a daily basis and am especially grateful for the confidence you place in me.
Sincerely, Barbara

~Thank you to our communion prep elves this year: January-Scharline Whidden; February-Ashley Adkins; March-Leeann Akers; April-Ginny & Mark Etherton; June-Susan Thomas; July-Sarah Chaney; August-Marge Thomas; September-Connie Kibbey; October-Fran Helphinstine; November-Ronetta & Jeff Brown; December-Leeann Akers.
FCC



**Men's Fellowship
January 19**

Our next men's breakfast will be Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 8:30am. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at the church. We will be making the transition from Cracker Barrel to First Christian Church in the New Year.

Look forward to seeing all the men for a hearty breakfast and good fellowship. Oh...and don't forget to bring a friend!
Rev. Don

Kroger Donates to FCC



Please check the bottom of your Kroger receipt to make sure that First Christian Church Morehead is your charity. Part of our Outreach is funded from the Kroger program. \$271.22 was received in December.



We Hope It Isn't Necessary....

Snow/Inclement Weather closings are posted on the WKYT (CBS Channel 27) television station usually at the bottom of the TV screen.

Adult Sunday School January 6

Please join us January 6 at 9:45am for a new study by Luke Timothy Johnson entitled "Mystical Tradition: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam" with Dr. Alana Scott.

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint."
Isaiah 40:30-31

January Deacons

Catherine Rogers and Alicia Carter

January Elders

Jan 6—Alana Scott
Jan 13—Alana Scott and Yvonne Baldwin
Jan 20—Joe Barrett
Jan 27—Paul Semisch

Pastoral Care for Emergencies

Please contact the office for pastoral emergencies, Monday-Thursday 8:30-1pm, at 606-784-4836. After 1pm, Fridays, and on the weekend, please contact Rev. Chase for pastoral emergencies. Rev. Don cell: 859-753-4335.



January Birthdays

- 4- Jane Holbrook
- 6- Nelson Grote
- 7- Anita McNeal
- 11- Miles Paschall
- 14- Jean Battson
- 16- Glenn Johnston
- 18- Danny Caudill
- 23- Mark Etherton
- 21- Dewayne Carter
- 24- Brooke Justice
- 24- Holly Pollock
- 25- Tommy Griffith

Mack Fund

in memory of
Darlene Perkins
Glen Buckner
Wilma Grote
Bill Davis
Faith Fannin
Etta Jane McCarty
Jerry Calvert
 by
 Di & Ron Walke



Yoga

Leon Smothers
 invites everyone to
 join the Yoga class



when it resumes on Thursday,
 January 3 at 5pm The class is a DVD
 series. Please bring a yoga mat.

Our Savings Funds

by David Perkins
 Some in our congregation have asked
 about our funds for the church. David
 Perkins has graciously given us the
 uses below.

Living Memorial Fund

in memory of

Don Blair

by

Jane Y. Holbrook
 Fran Helphinstine

in memory of

Darlene Perkins

by

Tammy K. Collins
 Gail & Charles Tingle
 Julia Hawkins
 Joe Barrett
 Scharline & Jack Whidden
 David Perkins
 Lucy & Bob Pryor

in memory of

Dolly May Moore

(Kaitlyn Rhoden's grandmother)

by

Fran Helphinstine

Good News in Nature

All mistletoes grow as parasites on the branches of trees and shrubs. The genus name of the North America's oak mistletoe (the most common species) in the eastern US is *Phoradendron*, Greek for "tree thief." The white berries of mistletoe plants are poisonous to humans but valuable food to many other species. It is often used as a symbol of renewal because it stays



green all winter. But the plant also is important to wildlife, and it may have critical value for humans, too. Extracts from mistletoe—newly used in Europe to combat colon cancer, the second greatest cause of cancer death in Europe and the Americas—show signs of **being more effective against cancer**, and less toxic to humans, than standard chemotherapy.

From Carolyn Roth Ministries

The **Mack Fund** is a more fluid fund kept locally and all of the gifts may be used as the Board directs without restriction.

The **Living Memorial Fund** is setup where the gifts are invested and only the income may be spent. The only other restriction is that we can't use it to sustain the church budget.

There are pros and cons to both, with the Mack Fund being immediately available for use, but easily depleted, whereas the LMF is a bit harder to get at quickly and the principal or core remains and keeps on producing income year after year.

December Treasurer's Report

Income is \$8,117.55.

Expenses are \$7,264.34.

Electronic Giving

Authorization forms are available in the sanctuary or contact the office for an email form.

Bear Much Fruit to God's Glory

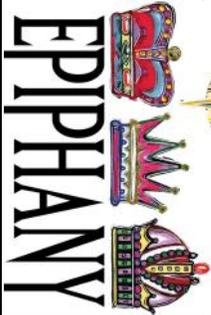


In and Around FCC



Photos by
Genny Jenkins &
Sarah Chaney.

First Christian Church - January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Office Hours: M-7th 8:30-1pm					
		1 New Year's Day Office closed.	2 5:00 Adult Bell Choir	3 5:00 Yoga	4 Office closed.	5 
6 Epiphany 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12:00pm First Sunday Brunch Sign up for Gateway Home Basket Outreach. Pick up an Epiphany Star!	7 	8 5:00 Yoga 	9 5:00 Adult Bell Choir	10 5:00 Yoga	11 Office closed.	19 8:30am Men's Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
13 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service	14	15 5:00 Yoga	16 5:00 Adult Bell Choir; 7:00 Choir	17 5:00 Yoga	18 Office closed.	
20 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12-3pm Youth Event	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22 5:00 Yoga	23 5:00 Adult Bell choir; 7:00 Choir Newsletter articles due.	24 5:00 Yoga		
27 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service	28 6:30/7pm Exec/ Full Bd Mtgs. Newsletter articles due.	29 5:00 Yoga	30 5:00 Adult Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	31 5:00 Yoga Newsletter published.		

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Donald Chase, Minister

Genny Jenkins, Choir
Jiyeon McGillicuddy, Keyboards
Youth

Barbara Marsh, Secretary
Sarah Chaney, Bells
Kaitlyn Rhoden, Nursery
Darrin Roe, Custodian

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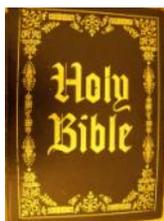


<http://www.facebook.com/fcc.morehead>



Bible Readings
for the Month

Disciples of Christ
Lectionary



Jan 6—Matthew 2:1-12

Jan 13—Luke 3:15-17,
21-22

Jan 20—John 2:1-11

Jan 27—Luke 4:14-21

THE SANTAS AMONG US

