

THE ECHO



VOL. 26 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2026

Epiphany Star Words

BEGINNING THE NEW YEAR WITH INTENTION

The start of a new year often brings with it a desire for change in our lives. The crisp new pages of the 2026 calendar await us. Will this year be different from the last?

In recent years churches around the globe have embraced the practice of Star Words for Epiphany and beyond. A Star Word is a single word offered to you as a gift for the new year. Receiving a Star Word is an intentional act of openness. Unlike a resolution, you don't choose the word; instead you allow it to choose you. As a spiritual practice, ceding control over the word invites us into a holy curiosity. It asks: What might God be inviting me to notice? What might this word reveal about the season of life I'm in? How can this word open up new ways of experiencing life?



Star Words aren't resolutions. They don't ask you to strive or improve. Instead, they invite you to begin the year with intention—to move a little more slowly, to notice what you might otherwise rush past, to let one word become a quiet companion on the journey.

Some years the word feels immediately fitting. Other years it feels puzzling, even unwelcome. But often those are the words that do the deepest work. They open a window. They shift the light. They help us see what God is revealing in the ordinary rhythm of our days.

How you approach your Star Word is up to you. Some people reflect on their word daily or weekly. It can be a word to sit beside your morning coffee, to surface in your prayers, or to catch your attention in unexpected moments. Perhaps leave the word up near your bathroom mirror or refrigerator. However you choose to explore this spiritual practice, let your word become an expansive space to become more aware of the presence of the Sacred in your daily life.

This Epiphany, may your Star Word offer you space to pause, to listen, and to begin again in God's ever-present grace. Star Word cards are available at the church office or you can receive one online using our Star Word Selector at <https://wheelrandom.com/apm-rtv>

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First Christian Church
227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY 40351

fccmorehead.org
(606)784-4836





Outreach
and Social Action

That's a WRAP on the Holidays!

Wow! Our congregation and friends continue to outdo themselves when it comes to their generosity during the holidays! From monetary donations to wrapped gifts, to packages of oatmeal, read on to find out how your gifts were used this holiday season ...

Rowan County Children and their Families

On December 7th, we delivered Christmas baskets to 10 very needy Rowan County families, providing food, blankets, cleaning supplies, help with transportation, and basic necessities to each family, as well as toys/gifts for each of 36 children. We also provided for each of those 36 children who needed them: a new pair of shoes, a new coat or warm hoodie, a new outfit of clothing, a pair of pajamas, and a new package of both socks and underwear. Coffee Tree Books/A Good Yarn Knitters provided many warm hand-knit caps for the children as well. In addition to all these items, your generosity allowed us to give each family a \$100 Kroger card to help with food needs during the holiday season.

Nearly everyone in our congregation (as well as some friends who do not attend) played a part in this gift to the community! Lots of shopping had to be done, so everyone who sponsored a child or provided for basket needs was a shopper. Members of the outreach committee shopped for cleaning supplies, hygiene items, shoes, socks, underwear, and clothing. Prior to delivery day, members of the outreach committee wrapped shoes and blankets, sorted clothing and basket items, and labeled gifts with children's names. The outreach committee consists of Elizabeth Ash, Jeff and Ronetta Brown, Alicia Carter, Sarah Chaney, Genny Jenkins, Connie Kibbey, Joyce Marin, Bob Pryor, Marge Thomas, and Susan Whidden.

On delivery day, members of the congregation swarmed the fellowship hall and loaded all items to be delivered. It was a sight to behold! We always need drivers/helpers to take the baskets and gifts to the families, and this year we had some great ones. Many thanks to, Lindsay Anderson and Jordan Gembarski, Alicia and DeWayne Carter, Mary Claire Collins and Ellie Williams, Janelle and Tim Hare, Genny Jenkins and Julie Schwarz, Keturah and John Lunsford, Joyce and Carlos Marin, Lucy and Bob Pryor, Alura Schaum and Logan Smalley, Marge and Dan Thomas, and Katie Webb and Eli Campbell.

Folks who delivered to families shared stories of blessing: excited children looking out the windows as gifts were unloaded, hugs and "thank-yous" from the children, and so much appreciation from parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who are raising the children and caring for them. We all agree that holiday outreach is a huge undertaking, but those smiles and hugs on delivery day make it so worth it! With your help, we were able to give these 36 children a great Christmas and ease some of the burden and worry on the families in our community who need it most!

Helping Our Elderly Neighbors

The holiday project also reaches out to some of our neediest elderly folks in the community. With the help of Beverly Gilliam, Director, and her staff at Christian Social Services, we are given 10 very needy elderly adults to assist. Many of these individuals have extreme health issues, some living completely alone, and ALL living on a very limited, fixed income. The congregation provided food, hygiene, and cleaning items for each of the 10 baskets, as well as reading material, puzzles, blankets, and other treats. The Coffee Tree/A Good Yarn knitters gave a warm hand-knit cap to each of these elderly folks as well. We were also able to give each person a \$100 Kroger gift card to assist with food needs during the holidays. Mrs. Gilliam expressed so much gratitude on behalf of these individuals! Many of them received our gifts with tears of joy and heartfelt thanks.

The deacons were very active in managing and delivering the baskets to Christian Social Services, as well as purchasing the gift cards for the elderly. Led by Elizabeth Ash, the deacons who assisted were Alicia and DeWayne Carter, Mary Claire Collins, Fran Helphinstine, Roy Reynolds, Silas Thomas, and Ellie Williams.

Many, many thanks to EVERYONE who helped in ANY WAY with this endeavor. Please know that your gifts were well-received and very much appreciated!

What's Next for FCC Outreach?

It's time to restart our **Housewarming Basket Project** for the Gateway Homeless Shelter. This project runs February – October each year and provides basic necessities for clients of the homeless shelter who are transitioning into a home of their own. Items are due on the 10th of each month and can be dropped off in the fellowship hall at any time. Folks may wish to bring all items for **all the months at once**, or you may bring an item **each month**.

Follow this link to get involved in housewarming baskets: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AAAAE2EAAFE3-61399374-gateway>

OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS

\$141.72—approximate amount spent on each child for clothing, shoes, and underwear.

\$105.48—quarterly earning from the Kroger Rewards program

50—# of households linking their Kroger cards to FCC.

See page 7 for instructions to designate FCC with your Kroger card.

Outreach Christmas elves pictured on back cover!

Some of the goodies awaiting delivery.



Coffee Tree Books/A Good Yarn knitters donated handmade scarves and beanies.

you are
ENOUGH

SAVE THE DATE!
Join Disciples Women from the Southeast Regional Fellowship (SERF) for "You Are Enough," inspired by 2 Corinthians 9:8 and featuring Keynote Rev. Dr. Marcia Whitney Mount Shoop. More information and registration coming soon.

DISCIPLES WOMEN 2026 SERF RETREAT



MARCH 13-15, 2026

Christmount Christian Assembly
Black Mountain, NC

**CAMP WAKON'DA-HO
2026 DATES**

YOSEMITE, KY | CCINKY.NET

SPRING WORK WEEKEND	APRIL 17-19
MINI CAMP (2-3)	JUNE 5-7
CYF 1 (9-12)	JUNE 8-13
EIGHTER'S CAMP (8)	JUNE 14-20
JUNIOR CAMP (4-5)	JUNE 22-26
CAMP 101A (K-2*)	JUNE 26-28
CYF 2 (9-12)	JUNE 29-JULY 4
CHI RHO 1 (6-8)	JULY 6-11
CHI RHO 2 (6-8)	JULY 13-18
CAMP 101B (K-2*)	JULY 25
Y'ALL CAMP (ALL AGES*)	SEPT 4-6

*FIND DETAILS REGARDING AGE RESTRICTIONS, CHAPERONE REQUIREMENTS, AND PRICING AT CCINKY.NET/MINISTRIES/CAMP/WAKONDA-HO

Wake Up Dead Man
A Knives Out MYSTERY

Midwinter FAITH & FILM CONVERSATION
JANUARY 18 7PM ON ZOOM



Blessing Box

The new blessing box in front of our labyrinth on East Main offers tangible hope to our neighbors. Have extra to share? You can drop off non-perishable pantry or household items at any time.

Thank you for keeping the blessings full and overflowing!

-SAVE THE DATE- CCK REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2026

Join us September 17-19, 2026 at First Christian Church, Bardstown for Pour: Regional Assembly 2026! Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.



**Central Christian
Church**

219 Short Street
Lexington, KY 40507
859-233-1551

centralchristianlex.org

 www.facebook.com/CentralChristianLex/

 www.youtube.com/@CentralChristianLex



36TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Come celebrate and remember the important legacy, ministry, and words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King alongside other Disciples on Sunday, January 18, at 6 p.m. Central Christian Church will host the 36th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Worship Service, featuring special guest preacher, **Rev. Dikiea J. Elery**. A reception will follow the service.

This service will also be livestreamed on Central Christian Church's Facebook and YouTube pages.

Join the community choir for the event!

Rehearsals dates:

Monday, January 5 @ 6pm, Saturday, January 10 @ 10am, Monday, January 12 @ 6pm, Saturday, January 17 @ 10am, and Sunday, January 18 @ 3pm.

The traditional potluck for choir members will take place on Sunday, January 18 @ 5:15pm (after rehearsal). For more information, contact Christian Smith at smithc312009@gmail.com or 855-684-4002.

SAVE THE DATE AND REGISTER FOR THE 2026 REGIONAL MEN'S CHORAL RETREAT

The 2026 Regional Men's Choral Retreat will take place January 23-25, 2026 at First Christian Church, Glasgow. Registration is \$65 - lodging and apparel not included. We will be singing at Sunday morning worship at FCC, Glasgow.

To learn more and register, visit www.ccinky.net/disciples-men/.

Contact Rick Jouett at RHJOUETT@aol.com with any questions.



Save the Date!

The Kentucky Disciples
Women's Choral Retreat

Sing into Spring!

Friday, February 27 ~ Sunday, March 1, 2026

Jeffersontown Christian Church
10631 Taylorsville Road Louisville, KY 40299



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

JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day Office closed	2	3
4 10:45 am Worship	5	6 7:00 pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	7	8	9 Office closed.	10
11 10:45 am Worship	12 4:30 pm Facilities Working Group mtg	13 4:30 pm Finance Working Group mtg, 7:00 pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	14 6:00 pm Bell choir 7:00 pm Choir	15	16 Office closed.	17
18 10:45 am Worship 7:00pm Midwinter Movie Conversation (Zoom)	19 Martin L. King Jr. Day (office closed) 10:30 am Worship team meeting	20 7:00 pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	21 6:00 pm Bell choir 7:00 pm Choir	22	23 Office closed.	24
25 10:45am Worship	26 7:00 pm Full Board meeting—zoom	27 7:00 pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	28 6:00 pm Bell choir 7:00 pm Choir	29	30 Office closed.	31

FCC GIVING NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

General gifts and income \$8,650.17

Expenses \$10,149.73

FISCAL YEAR (JULY – DEC)

General gifts and income \$54,532.17

Expenses \$74,392.07

Sharing year-to-date giving and expenses reflects our strong commitment to transparency as together we practice faithful stewardship of the resources of this congregation.

Thank you for your continued generosity—your gifts sustain the ministries, message, and outreach of First Christian Church.

THANK YOU!

Dear FCC Family, once again I am touched by your generosity and thankful for the Christmas gift. I am grateful for my role(s) as part of this church. Blessings to all and thank you again.— Susan

Dear FCC Friends, Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. Your many kindnesses over this past year mean so much to me, and I'm grateful to partner with you in ministry each day. With deep gratitude, Pastor Nancy.

January Birthdays

4- Jane Holbrook

11- Miles Paschall

21- Dewayne Carter

23- Mark Etherton

25- Tommy Griffith

27- Ginny Etherton

MEMORIAL GIFTS

LIVING MEMORIAL

In memory of **Eva Johnston**

Fran Helphinstine

INEZ FAITH HUMPHREY

In memory of **Eva Johnston**

Dan & Marge Thomas

David Perkins

In memory of **Rob Sloss**

David Perkins

Ways to give



Online

at fccmorehead.org/giving
for PayPal or direct debit options



Thru the mail

First Christian Church
227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY 40351



In person

giving boxes at sanctuary entrances



your support makes ministry at FCC happen



Community Rewards

To designate FCC as your Kroger Rewards charity, follow this [link](#).

Sign up is easy; follow these simple steps.

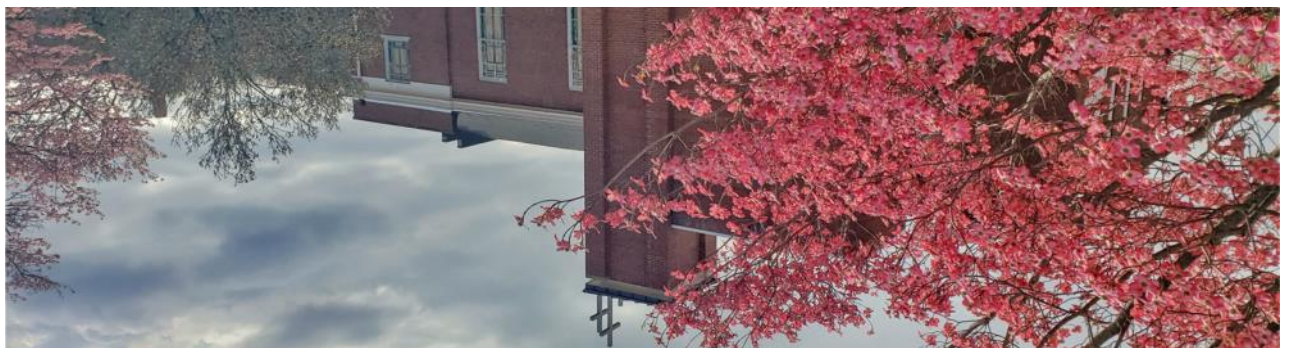
1. Sign in to your digital Kroger account.
2. Search for **First Christian Church - Morehead** [here](#).
3. Select **First Christian Church - Morehead** from the list and click "Save."

Outreach Christmas Elves in Action



PLACE MAILING LABEL HERE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY 40351



Place
Stamp
Here