

VOL. 22 ISSUE 7 JULY 2022

THE ECHO

a newsletter of the First Christian Church of Morehead, Kentucky

President's column

MARY CLAIRE WILLIAMS



Hello Church Family,

I would like to start by saying I am humbled and honored to serve in the position of President of the board for the next year. I have been a member of the church for thirteen years, and this FCC Morehead community has made an immeasurable impact on my life during that time. Ellie was barely walking when I carried her through the doors feeling very nervous and unsure of myself. The first person to

greet us was Jim Fred. I will never forget the way Jim Fred made us feel that day (in addition to our beloved, Ron and Di Walke). We left church that day feeling welcomed, loved, and safe. May we all greet our visitors with the same enthusiasm and warmth!

As we move into this new church year we certainly have our work cut out for us. Some days I feel so overwhelmed that I don't know where to start. I'm sure you can all relate. However, I think Pastor Nancy gave us beautiful instructions on the actions steps we should all strive for stating, "You want to celebrate true freedom? Then go, love God, and love your neighbor as yourself. Then let's watch the world be transformed." Thank you, Pastor Nancy, for reminding us that change starts with love.

In closing, I would like to thank Anne Buckner for her service to the church as board President for the past year. Anne's leadership and servant heart guided our church through difficult times. I know the current board will work together guided by Christ's love to continue to transform our community. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

With Love,

Mary Claire Williams

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Welcoming New Members

Welcome to our newest members, Jennifer and Tim Murtaugh. Jennifer and Tim reside in Michigan. Jennifer is no stranger to FCC, having been raised in Morehead. Her parents are Sarah and Rex Chaney, longtime FCC members. Tim is a retired Disciples of Christ minister. We are delighted to include folks from outside of Rowan County as one unforeseen benefit of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Home address: Jennifer & Rev. Tim Murtaugh
611 Day Street
Frankfort, MI 49635

Birthdays: Jennifer - October 25
Tim - October 27

Anniversary: July 27

Emails: jenniferbrownchaney (at) gmail (dot) com
timdmurtaugh (at) gmail (dot) com



Outreach Updates

RONETTA & JEFF BROWN

Welcome New Committee Member!

The Outreach Committee would like to welcome Joyce Marin! We are so happy that Joyce will be helping us with the important work of community and world outreach! If you are interested in becoming a member of the Outreach Committee, we would love to have you! Contact committee co-chairs Jeff and Ronetta Brown, or plan to attend our next meeting.



Meeting Scheduled in July

The Outreach Committee will meet in the church Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, July 20th, at 6:00 pm**. Agenda items include Snack Backpack Program, People's Clinic volunteer lunches, Ukrainian Refugee assistance, and St. Claire transportation assistance request. If you would like to add something to the agenda, please contact Jeff or Ronetta Brown.

Gateway Housewarming Baskets

Basket items are due the 10th of each month, and should be left in the church Fellowship Hall. Thanks to everyone who is helping with this mission!

July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office closed.	2
3 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Blessing of the Prayer Slips, Labyrinth Garden	4 Office closed. Independence Day. Camp for Ellie and Alana. Let's write letters.	5 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	6 9:30-11 am Wilderness Trail Work <i>No Bell Choir in July.</i>	7 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom	8 Office closed.	9
10 10:45 Worship Gateway Basket items for Homeless Shelter due.	11	12 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	13	14 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom	15 Office closed.	16
17 10:45am Worship	18	19 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	20 6:00-7:00pm Outreach Committee Mtg Fellowship Hall	21 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom	22 Office closed. Men's Spiritual Life Retreat July 22-24 Click Here to Register for Men's Retreat	23
24 10:45am Worship Newsletter articles due.	25 6:30/7:00PM Executive/Full Board Meetings	26 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	27	28 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom	29 Office closed.	30
31 10:45am Worship 5th Sunday Offering for Christian Care Communities						



New Officers & Deacons

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION JUNE 26

We welcome our new officers for the coming year who were installed on June 26, 2022 during worship service. They are president Mary Claire Williams, vce president Brent Rogers, secretary Fran Helphinstine, and treasurer Joe Barrett. New deacons who returned from sabbatical are Phillip Swim and Brent Rogers. Please be in prayer for them as they lead the congregation in the new year July 2022-June 2023.



Officer Installation: from left Fran Helphinstine, Brent Rogers, Mary Claire Williams, Joe Barrett, Rev. Nancy Gowler.

Youth Attending Camp

WAKON'DA-HO

Ellie Williams and Alana Sholar will be attending Camp Wakon'Da-Ho, our Disciples of Christ church camp, again this year. Please pray for our campers during the week of July 4th-9th. If you would like to write our girls, here is the address:

Chi Rho I
Camp Wakon'Da-Ho
7900 East KY 70
Yosemite, KY 42566

*Please be sure to **mail letters/cards**
by July 5th to ensure their arrival before
camp ends.



Ellie Williams

Alana Sholar



Parking at FCC

SPACES 1-4 ARE RESERVED

Dear Congregation,

As you may know, the church rents 4 spaces to the public during the fall and spring. For this reason please do not park in spaces 1-2-3-4. Any space other than the designated spaces may be used by any member of the congregation who holds a parking permit. If you would like a permit for the coming fiscal year (July-June 2023) please stop by the office to pick up your parking permit. (reminder office closed July 4.)

Thank You

First Christian Church Family,
Thank you so much for your recent monetary donation! We are so fortunate to live such wonderful community.
Doves Staff

Dear Pastor Nancy & Members of First Christian Church,
Thank you for your very generous donation to Gateway House of \$2,000! Thank you for being part of a group of donors and benefactors who help us to continue our work on behalf of the men, women and children who arrive at our door. We are deeply grateful for your support!
Marilyn Smith, Executive Director
Paul Semisch, Assistant Director

First Christian Church of Morehead,
Thanks so much for the support of 4-H Camp Donation of \$275.
Genaea Sarantakos
County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development

Dear Friends,
Your Fifth Sunday donation of \$240 has been gratefully received at Christian Care Communities is being put straight to good use. Thank you so much for your grace...your generosity...your goodwill!
James W. Patton, V. President
Mission Advancement & General Counsel



Blessing of the Prayers Slips

Sunday, July 3

12:00pm

Labyrinth Garden

Giving News

TREASURER'S REPORT JUNE

May 31, 2022	\$1,551.50
General gifts and Income	\$6,270.04
Expenses:	\$8,363.23

ENDOWMENTS COMMITTEE

The Endowments Committee met earlier this year to discuss distributions from the income of three FCC funds. The following items were recommended to the general board and approved.

All monies were distributed in May.

FROM LIVING MEMORIAL FUND IN SUPPORT OF OUTREACH

Build-A-Bed	\$500
Christian Social Services	\$2,000
DOVES	\$2,000
Gateway Homeless Shelter	\$3,000
Peoples Free Clinic	\$2,000
Human Concerns	\$5,000
Total	\$14,500

FROM IFH & YOUTH IN SUPPORT OF OPERATING BUDGET

Inez Faith Humphrey Fund	\$10,000
Youth Fund	\$10,000
Total	\$20,000

4-H SCHOLARSHIP

Sarah & Rex Chaney

FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Marge & Dan Thomas

*In memory of Donald Wayne Lewis, Brent Roger's father,
and Susie C. Nixon, Alana Scott's aunt.*

Notes from Pastor Nancy

REV. NANCY GOWLER



"I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between church and State."

—Thomas Jefferson, in an 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptist Association, Connecticut

Dear Disciples,

As we approach July 4 with its celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of our country, it's fitting for Christians to reflect upon the role of religious liberty in our nation's history and in our current day. The living out of the ideals of religious liberty has always been complicated and messy, as our country has wrestled with adjudicating among competing interests. Democracy is hard work, after all. Despite protests to the contrary in certain vocal Christian circles, the idea of the separation of church and state does not sideline people of faith. The first amendment offers protection for religious communities from interference from the secular state, regardless of their position of influence in our larger society. The flip side of that protection is equally vital—religious communities are restrained from imposing particular religious views onto society at large. When one particular religious institution aligns itself with government power in order to legislate its particular worldview onto others, our rights to religious liberty are diminished.

One of the rallying mottos long embraced by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is *"In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity."* The maxim predates our founding as a denomination, first appearing in Lutheran and German Reformed churches in the 17th century. While not unique to Disciples the motto has been a distinctive of our religious identity, affirming together that "Jesus is the Christ," and also embracing individual discernment of matters of faith and morality. Disciples recognize that people of faith will have varying views on ethical issues, and we have long struggled to live out that commitment to diversity of belief while maintaining a welcoming faith community and living out our understanding of God's call to justice.

Among several recent troubling rulings from the Supreme Court is the opinion in *Kennedy v. Bremerton*, which upends protections for public school students from teacher-led religious practices. A Christian high school football coach regularly offered prayer in the middle of the football field immediately following games and also gave Christianity-laced motivational talks in the locker room. Apprised of his actions the school administration told the coach he could pray privately, but he could not lead students in prayer while he was on the job. They offered accommodations so that the coach might continue his private prayers in a less conspicuous place. Let me be clear: the coach could have prayed on the sidelines, privately in the press box, in his car on the way home, and in any number of other places. Instead, after finding legal backers who were looking for a Supreme Court fight, the coach resumed praying on the field at the 50 yard line. He was subsequently fired.

At issue was not the coach's freedom to practice his faith through personal prayer at his place of employment, but rather his performance of a religious act in such a way that students, players, or staff might feel pressured into participation. This Supreme Court decision seriously weakens the rights of families to raise their children according to their own religious or secular traditions. As people of faith who hold to the idea of personal liberty with respect to religious practices, this decision by the court should trouble us.

Alexander Campbell would write in his memoirs that the United States was *"a country happily exempted from the baneful influence of a civil establishment of any peculiar form of Christianity, and from under the direct influence of an anti-Christian hierarchy."* I fear we have entered a time in which such dedication to religious liberty for all no longer holds sway.

Pastor Nancy



Morehead and the Christian Women's Board of Missions, A Continuing Look Back at MSU Beginnings (excerpt from [*A Light to the Mountains* by Donald F. Flatt p16-18](#))

Thomas F. Hargis provided four acres of land for the campus of Morehead Normal School, as well as \$500 for a classroom building, to maintain a school intended "for the exclusive use and control of the Christian Church." This sizable contribution for the benefit of both church and school must have brought a sense of cleansing to the soul of Judge Harris. His race for circuit judge featured charges and counter-charges in the acrimonious campaign of 1874; his loss to his Republican opponent began a decade of political antagonism and unrest which provided the background for the Martin-Tolliver feud in 1884.

But the young school had to endure one major problem after another: Now that its need for a classroom building had been met, Morehead Normal School had to cope with a problem in leadership.

Just as the Buttons' close relationship had brought them to Morehead, Phebe's illness led to Frank's resignation in 1892 to care for his mother. Although she died that same year, Button did not return as principal until 1896. Ralph Julian succeeded him as principal of the school and as minister of the local Christian Church for four years.

Morehead Normal School's increase in enrollment to around 200 clearly demonstrated the need for a dormitory. A generous \$1,500 gift by Button's uncle, Robert Hodson, of Oquawka, Illinois, led to the construction of the first boarding hall in 1894. Described as



Hodson Hall, MSU's first boarding hall, 1894.

the "finest in Eastern Kentucky," Hodson Hall, a memorial to Mrs. Phebe Button and her niece, Hattie Hodson, was a three-story frame building with twenty-two apartments. A catalogue describes the rooms as "furnished with dresser, washstand, table, bed with springs, a good carpet on the floor, and nearly all are now papered." Room and board were

\$2 per week at a time when tuition was only \$5 for a ten-week period. Hodson Hall was segregated into a section for women and another for men. Thus, Morehead started out with a coed residence hall, a most uncommon practice for the 1895. Hodson Hall later became a girls' dormitory, after a separate men's residence was constructed.

Few records exist today dealing with such topics as curriculum, faculty, and students between 1887 and 1900. But a Morehead Normal School catalogue for the 1897-98 academic year furnishes an indication of the nature of the school during part of this time.

There were four terms~ beginning on August 29, November 7, January 23, and April 3—with commencement held on June 9. As president of the Kentucky Christian Missionary Society, J. W. McGarvey of Lexington was listed as president of the board of trustees. In addition to being principal, Frank C. Button taught English literature, Latin, Greek, and Sacred History. Cora Wilson (Stewart), who became well known early in the twentieth century as a fighter against illiteracy, was mentioned as an elocution and primary teacher. The school allowed a five percent discount if the \$5 tuition for a ten-week term was paid in advance. Students had access to the principal's library, along with a school library consisting of some 1,000 books. Although Rowan had once been noted for its lawlessness, the catalogue describes it as "now one of the most law-abiding counties in Eastern Kentucky." "Easy of access by rail and stage," the town of Morehead had grown to about 1,000.



Phebe Button, 1880. Mrs. Button was instrumental in the establishment of Morehead Normal School and was the mother of Dr. Frank Button, the first principal. Dr. Button accompanied her to Morehead. Mrs. Button had been engaged in educational work at the Female Orphans Home in Midway KY for the previous twelve years before traveling to Morehead.

Kentucky Regional Christian Church News

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN KENTUCKY

Disciples Women

Women's Fall Retreat

Keynoter, Rev. Emily Askew

October 14-16, 2022

Barren River State Park, Kentucky

More info coming soon.



Disciples Men

Men's Spiritual Life Retreat

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Retreat Leader, Rev. Dean Phelps

July 22-24, 2022

St. Meinrad Archabbey

St. Meinrad, Indiana



Regional Assembly

November 3-5, 2022

Georgetown, Kentucky

A feast of workshops, fellowship, worship, and prayer for Kentucky Disciples.



Caleb Fouts, Genny Jenkins

Jim Fred Cassity hosted the FCC Bell Choir on June 26, 2022 at North Fork Senior Living Center. The workers and members of North Fork greatly appreciated the musical visit.



Alana Scott, Jeff Brown, Caleb Fouts, Genny Jenkins, Alicia Carter, Sarah Chaney. Center: Jim Fred Cassity

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