

VOL. 23 ISSUE 7 JULY 2023

# THE ECHO

a newsletter of the First Christian Church of Morehead, Kentucky

## New Church Leaders Begin Service in July

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION HELD ON JUNE 25

On Sunday, June 25, we officially installed our new congregational leaders for terms beginning July 1, 2023: president Brent Rogers, vice president Genny Jenkins, secretary Elizabeth Ash, and treasurer Joe Barrett. Deacons who have agreed to new three year terms after a sabbatical year: Ashley Adkins, Fran Helphinstine, Leeann Potter, and Mary Claire Williams. The service of installation included a pledge from the congregation:

*Will you support with prayers and your best thoughts and with concrete actions these ones who have been called forth to lead you, will you support them always seeking the glory of God in this place, in our neighborhoods, and into the whole world? If so, please say, "With God's help, we will."*

The ministry of FCC Morehead is the work of all of us, through prayers and concrete actions. Together may we seek to be a people of who are following Jesus, extending welcome and grace to all, loving God, and loving our neighbors.

## President's Column

BRENT ROGERS

Dear members of the congregation at First Christian Church (DOC) Morehead, KY,

I am honored that you have seen fit to have me serve as your president for the 2023 – 2024 year. As most of you remember, my late wife, Catherine, served as president for the 2019 – 2020 year. If I do even half as good a job as she did, I will consider it a job well done. I sincerely hope that we do not face challenges as severe as that year. We are still trying to recover and move forward from the effects of the pandemic of that year.

I request your assistance and your prayers as we continue to move forward toward whatever we are to become in the time ahead. I am sure I do not know all the correct answers to questions and situations that will arise. So therefore it is of utmost importance that each and every one of you participates in the running of this congregation. I need your participation in making decisions, carrying out those decisions, financing those actions.

As I said earlier, I most need your earnest prayers for my guidance by God and for the end results that he would have happen. As it says in the prayer we repeat each Sunday, "thy will be done". May we have a good and successful year.

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# Creation Care

## PROGRESS ON BOAT GUNNEL TRAIL WORK DAYS

Work continues on our adopted trail the Creation Care team adopted in 2022. The full Wildlife Trail at Boat Gunnel group campground and picnic area on Cave Run Lake has been identified and improved in June 2023 by members and friends of First Christian Church's Creation Care team. The trail is now a complete loop.

If you would like to join a future trail work day project, contact the church office or Mark Etherton, FCC Creation Care team chair.



The crew was all smiles after the latest work day at the Wildlife Boat Gunnel trail at Cave Run Lake. Pictured left to right: Mark Etherton, Sarah Chaney, Lucy Pryor, David Potter, and Leeann Potter. *Photo by Sarah Chaney.*



Sarah Chaney helps clear a particularly thick area of the trail. Thanks, Sarah!

## Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 8AM-NOON (COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTER)

The annual Rowan County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal event offers residents of Rowan County an opportunity to safely dispose of common household products which should not be placed in trash bins and are not easily recycled. For more information contact Rowan County Floodplain-Solid Waste office, (606) 784-6345, [tyler.brown@rcky.us](mailto:tyler.brown@rcky.us).

Materials accepted include

- Oil paint & paint products
- Mercury
- Aerosols
- Pesticide liquids, solids, & aerosols
- Cleaners (acids/bases/oxidizers)
- Reactives
- Adhesives/roof tar/driveway sealers
- Antifreeze
- Fuels (gasoline, kerosene)
- Automobile products (fluids, grease)
- Lab pack materials
- Batteries (lead-acid)
- Batteries (household) to be recycled
- Propane cylinders (5 or 20lbs)
- Helium cylinders (5lbs)
- Freon cylinders
- Oxygen cylinders
- Carbon dioxide cylinders
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Aluminum paint
- PCB materials
- Asbestos



# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:45am Worship	3	4 <b>Independence Day</b> Office closed.	5	6 7:00pm No Vespers	7 Office closed.	8
9 10:45am Worship 2:00pm 2nd Sunday Hike-UMC parking lot	10	11 7:00pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	12	13 7:00pm Vespers (Zoom)	14 Office closed.	15
16 10:45am Worship	17	18 7:00pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	19	20 7:00pm Vespers (Zoom)	21 Office closed.	22
23 10:45am Worship August newsletter articles cue.	24 6:30pm Executive Board Mtig (Zoom) 7:00pm Full Board Mtig (Zoom)	25 7:00pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	26	27 7:00pm No Vespers	28 Office closed.	29 General Assembly begins in Louisville
30 <i>General Assembly</i> 10:45am Worship Guest minister: Leeanna Coyle Carr	31 <i>General Assembly</i>					



**As members of the Christian Church,**  
**We confess that Jesus is the Christ,**  
*the Son of the living God,*  
**AND PROCLAIM HIM LORD AND SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.**

In Christ's name and by his grace  
we accept our mission of witness  
**AND SERVICE TO ALL PEOPLE.**

*We rejoice in God,*  
*maker of heaven and earth,*  
**AND IN GOD'S COVENANT OF LOVE**  
**which binds us to God and to one another.**

**Through baptism into Christ**  
**we enter into newness of life**  
**and are made one with the whole people of God.**

In the communion of the Holy Spirit  
we are joined together in discipleship  
and in obedience to Christ.

*At the Table of the Lord*  
**we celebrate with thanksgiving**  
**THE SAVING ACTS AND PRESENCE OF CHRIST.**

Within the universal church  
we receive the gift of ministry  
**AND THE LIGHT OF SCRIPTURE.**

**In the bonds of Christian faith**  
**we yield ourselves to God**  
**THAT WE MAY SERVE THE ONE**  
**whose kingdom has no end.**

*Blessing, glory, and honor*  
*be to God forever. Amen.*



## TREASURER'S REPORT—JUNE

General gifts and income	\$ \$8,295.62
AmazonSmile	\$16.54
Kroger	\$150.49
T-shirt sales	\$60.00
Expenses	\$12,892.64



The Disciples of Christ church camp Wakon'Da-Ho hosted two of our teens during the week of June 26-30. Ellie Williams (left) and Alana Sholar have attended the camp for many years together.

## Ordination Recognition

FCC MARKS REV. GOWLER'S 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

First Christian Church of Morehead honored Reverend Nancy Gowler with a reception following worship on June 4, 2023. Three years ago, our congregation was blessed by the arrival of Pastor Nancy to Morehead. She came to us from Washington state at a time of great uncertainty in the middle of a global health pandemic. She has brought vision and stability in changing times, assisting our congregation in developing new ways of connection and expanding worship and faith formation opportunities online. Congratulations to Pastor Nancy Gowler on reaching 25 years in ministry!

*Rev. Gowler received her Master of Divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1992. In 2015 Northwest Christian University in Eugene, Oregon (now Bushnell University) recognized her with an honorary Doctor of Divinity. She was a keynote preacher at the Disciples General Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa, in 2019. Gowler had two decades of ministry with the First Christian Church of Puyallup, Washington, before moving to Kentucky in 2020.*



President Mary Claire Williams, presented Rev. Gowler with a commemoration cake during the celebration on June 4, 2023.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY July

2 - Ben Johnson  
3- Rex Chaney  
7- Eva Johnston  
7- Alana Scott  
10- Roy Reynolds  
13- Tiffany Sholar  
23- Yvonne Baldwin  
25- Emma Lou Gross  
25- Leon Smothers  
28- Abby Hammond  
31- Paul Semisch  
31- Lucy Pryor

## THANK YOU

To Everyone,

I wanted to thank everyone for the graduation gift the church gave to me, as well as all the encouragement and good wishes I received.

Keyairah Bailey



Rev. Gowler (in red) and her ordination committee from FCC Eugene, Oregon, on June 14, 1998.



# Notes from Pastor Nancy

REV. NANCY GOWLER



Last month I spent a few days with family hiking in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park near Gatlinburg. After exploring the panoramic views at Clingman's Dome, we decided to continue on the Andrews Bald Trail, a 3.6 mile out and back hike. My handy All Trails app reported a moderately challenging route, although as we made our way along the descending trail, all the hikers we met coming back up the incline were more than happy to step off the trail to take a breather while we passed them!

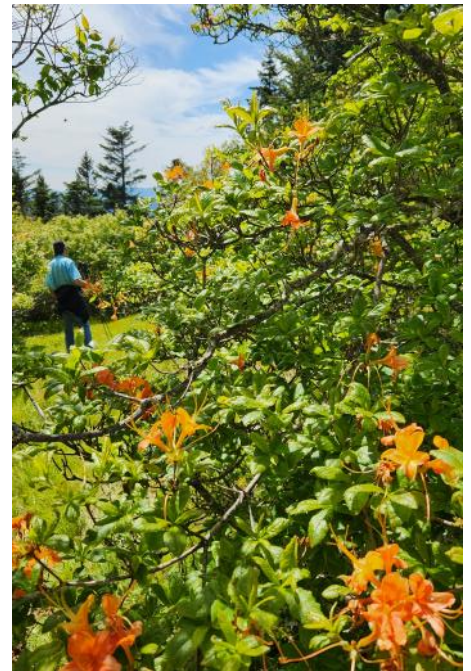
Once we made it to Andrews Bald, I struck up a conversation with an older couple who were enjoying a picnic lunch with views of early blooming flaming azaleas and the last flowers of the Catawba rhododendrons. This hike was an annual excursion for the two, who first made the hike together on their honeymoon and have returned every year since. Now at ages of 79 and 81, they were eager to share their observations on how the park had changed, when was the best time of the year to make the hike, and other jewels that hiking in the park had to offer. Above all, they expressed their deep gratitude for the wonder of the park and for good health which allowed them to keep walking the trails. We started the hike back up the trail together and continued to chat along the way.

Our conversation has stayed with me, causing me to reflect upon experiences to which I return to regularly, rituals which bring meaning to my life. Next week I'll travel with my son Ben to Chicago for a few days. As we were planning our itinerary, two "must-dos," were quickly agreed upon: a stop at Lou Malnati's for pizza and an afternoon at the Art Institute of Chicago. These places have long been a part of my life. Ben first visited the Art Institute when he was in second

grade. He could hardly contain his excitement at seeing in person his favorite painting at the time, *A Sunday on La Grande Jatte*, by Georges Seurat. Over the years there are a few works at the Institute that have become a reoccurring part of my pilgrimage. I will stand in front of Pablo Picasso's *Old Guitarist* and wish again for a bench so I can take in the painting in a leisurely way. And then I will make my way through the Modern wing pausing to sit in front of a later Picasso, *Mother and Child*. The two works are a couple of decades apart, with differing moods and color palettes.

I could go on about the spiritual and personal resonances I have with them—the connections with religious themes and my own stories. But today I'm reflecting more upon how the practice of regular pilgrimages or rituals deepens our spiritual journeys. Such practices can help us cultivate gratitude, give us opportunities to tell our stories, strengthen our connections with others, are moments to reflect on the values which ground our living.

Do you have any places or experiences to which you return again and again? What makes those places meaningful to you? With whom do you share those? How have they shaped who you are today? I hope you find ways to incorporate important rituals into your life this summer.



My brother David on the search for more flaming azaleas at Andrews Bald, Great Smokey Mountains National Park.



Pastor Nancy



# History Corner

HISTORY OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD — ANNE BUCKNER

Church Gatherings Over the Years - Fellowship Picnics. Do you see any familiar faces?



Hedy Caldwell, Paul Reynolds



Di Walke, Jean Mack, Shirley Parker



Jack Whidden, Oran Teater,  
Darlene Perkins



Paul Reynolds, Shirley Parker



Alana Sholar, Ellie Williams



FCC Choir, September 2022





# KINDOM PRAYER

THURSDAYS 7PM ET  
*General Assembly*

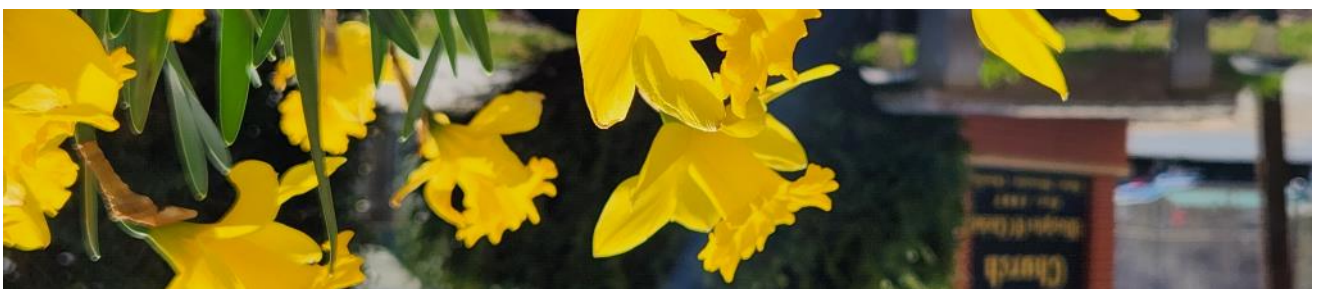
When the General Assembly meets in Louisville, Kentucky, July 29-August 1, 2023, it will be the first time in four years the church as a whole has gathered in person. The theme for the 2023 General Assembly is “Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us.” The General Assembly is the whole church. It’s not just a gathering.

Prior to General Assembly the whole church is invited to pray the preamble to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as an act of worship

and unity in celebration of the way that God’s expansive love connects each of us as “kin” and to each part of the larger kindom of God. FCC Morehead prayed the preamble together in worship on Sunday, June 25. You can find a commemorative copy of the preamble on page 4.

Each Thursday evening in July leading up to General Assembly there will be an online prayer gathering on Facebook and YouTube at 7PM ET. Join leaders from across the life of the church for a 15 minute time of prayer for the 2023 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). On Thursday, July 6, prayer will be led by the Southeast Regional Fellowship (SERF) - North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Alabama/NW Florida, Tennessee and Virginia regions. Find Kindom Prayer gatherings and other resources on Facebook ([facebook.com/christianchurchdoc/events](https://facebook.com/christianchurchdoc/events)) or on YouTube ([youtube.com/christianchurchdoc](https://youtube.com/christianchurchdoc)).

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
227 East Main Street  
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Place  
Stamp  
Here