

VOL. 22 ISSUE 6 JUNE 2022

# THE ECHO

a newsletter of the First Christian Church of Morehead, Kentucky

## Disciples Gun Safety Resource

FAITH-BASED INTERGENERATIONAL RESOURCE



Stories of gun violence and mass shootings have become commonplace in the United States. In such times our families, churches, and children need resources for quality conversation around this difficult topic. In 2018 former Coordinator of the Disciples' Justice & Advocacy for Family & Children's Ministries, Kate Epperly put together printable resources for those who work with younger generations and

their families. Printed copies of the pamphlet, *A Faith-Based Intergenerational Resource for Conversation and Action to Prevent Gun Violence*, are available at church. You may also access this and other online resources at [www.docfamiliesandchildren.org](http://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org).

As we continue to deal with tough situations, here are some reminders from Ministry Across Generations, a ministry of Disciples Home Missions, as your young people process tragic news.

- If you can, turn off the media. If you can't with older youth, then watch with them if possible. Process together, but with an awareness that adults and youth are not the same.
- Remind children and young people they are safe. Even though no one can be 100% safe, and you do not need to lie to them, the neurons in our brains need to process a sense of safety to be able to respond in healthier ways.
- Respond to a young person based on their age and questions. If a child asks, "Will I get killed at school tomorrow?" don't respond with your feelings of fear and anger. Remind them of the safety guidelines at schools, the locked doors, the teachers, and the knowledge that people do all they can to protect them. If older, then talk through ways to make safe choices.
- Acknowledge their feelings and yours. It is okay to be scared. It is okay to be sad and angry. At the same time, share with your children about the helpers. Share some hopeful moments that may be hard to see. Spend some quality time with each other.

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First Christian Church  
227 East Main Street  
Morehead, KY 40351

[www.fccmorehead.org](http://www.fccmorehead.org)  
(606)784-4836



# President's column

ANNE BUCKNER



Greetings Church Family,

My term as President of FCC of Morehead is soon coming to an end. I want to take this opportunity to say a great big THANK YOU for letting me guide you through this past year. I certainly have had some challenges but all in all it's been a wonderful learning experience for me. Pastor Nancy and Barbara have so graciously instructed me on how to use Google Docs without pulling their hair out, at least I think so. Thank you both for not giving up on me.

We all had challenges adjusting to not being able to worship in person this past year. We are so very fortunate to have so many people who stepped-up and volunteered to lead us as we worshiped from our homes in Zoom meetings for Vespers, Bible Study and committee meetings. Through it all we did our best to welcome visitors and exhibit our love for Christ, our community, our church and each other.

I especially want to say "thank you" to Pastor Nancy for coordinating so many opportunities for us to worship with the First Baptist Church and Faith Presbyterian Church. I really enjoyed dressing up for a community Trunk or Treat, and the joint services during the season of Lent as we humbly experienced the selflessness of Christ. I also appreciated Pastor Nancy's creativity as was seen in the liturgical seasonal kits she made for us to worship with at home and creating the "Faith and Film Festival" through different seasons that allowed us to join together virtually which generated such great discussions.

Thank you for everyone's help and support in making this year a great one for our church and community. I truly feel that our church has come through this time of uncertainty with great strength and resilience thanks to everyone's mighty works. In closing, I pray for God's blessings for each of you. May you feel his love and grace as you go about his daily work.

Love and Blessings to each of you,

Anne

2 Corinthians 12:12: The signs of a true apostle were exhibited among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

## Kentucky Regional Christian Church Staff Update

NEW ACTING DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Marsha M. Thornton, Jr., Acting Director of Women's Ministries in Kentucky, is a current member of Third Central United Christian Church (DOC), in Louisville, KY, where she serves as a Deacon and church Treasurer. She has been a member there since April 1992. She has served on the Women's Ministry Cabinet since around 2000 and has served as President for the last 5 years.

Marsha is a current sitting member of the Christian Church in Kentucky Regional Board. A mother of two young ladies, Marsha works full time for The Salvation Army as a Regional Accountant. She has Bachelor of Science degree from Central State University in Business and earned a Marketing and a Master's of Arts degree from the University of Louisville in Higher Education – Human Resources.

Welcome, Marsha!



# June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Office closed.	4
5 10:45am Worship Pentecost Offering	6 Vacation Bible School at First Baptist - June 6-9	7 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	8 5:00pm Bell Choir	9 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom	10 Office closed.	11
12 10:45 Worship	13	14 Flag Day 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	15 5:00pm Bell Choir	16 Vespers canceled.	17 Office closed.	18
19 Father's Day Juneteenth 10:45am Worship	20	21 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	22 5:00pm Bell Choir	23 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom	24 Office closed.	25
26 10:45am Worship Installation Service for Officers & Deacons Newsletter articles due.	27 6:30/7:00PM Executive/Full Board Meetings	28 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	29 5:00pm Bell Choir	30 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom		



## Creation Care

BY MARK ETHERTON

FCC members met to restore a trail in the Daniel Boone National Forest and enjoyed fellowship while lending their hands to help take care of God's creation on Sunday, May 15, 2022.

Thank you to all who participated: Brent Rogers, David Perkins, Jack Whidden. Susan Whidden, Bob Pryor, Lucy Pryor, Sarah Chaney, and Mark Etherton.



Newly born robins that were nesting on a rose arbor near her porch have been a part of Connie Kibbey's spring. She monitored their birth and development. We hope the picture will encourage others to be more nature conscious.

Please send in photos of your Creation experiences to Mark Etherton at [ginnl@windstream.net](mailto:ginnl@windstream.net).

# New Officers & Deacons

INSTALLATION SERVICE JUNE 26



Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held by email due to restrictions placed on in-person meeting due to the COVID19 pandemic. Voting was received May 11-19, 2022 for officers and new deacons for the fiscal year July-June 2023. The slate of officers nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Directors were unanimously accepted by the congregation during the voting. Please be in prayers for those who are serving in this ministry.

## First Christian Church of Morehead Officers for 2022-2023

President Mary Claire Williams      Vice President Brent Rogers  
Secretary Fran Helphinstine      Treasurer Joe Barrett

## Diaconate Class of 2022-2023

Brent Rogers, Phillip Swim



Mary Claire

Fran

Joe

Brent

Phillip

## Thank You

First Christian Church Family,

Thank you for all who sent cards, flowers, expressions of sympathy and prayers in passing of my father, Wayne Lewis, Sr. We love being part of our FCC family.

Brenda Combs



2- Carmen Swim

5- Brenda Combs

7- Genny Jenkins

23- Meghan Hammond

25- Ethan Jenkins

26- Wayne Caldwell

27- Leeann Akers

29- Susan Whidden

## Giving News

### TREASURER'S REPORT MAY

General gifts and Income: \$7,938.54

Expenses: \$8,503.84



# Notes from Pastor Nancy

REV. NANCY GOWLER



*Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,  
informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again,  
"How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?  
How long dare vain self-int'rest turn prayer and pity blind?"*

—John L. Bell

These are difficult days to find hope. Our news is filled with stories of war and aggression with millions of refugees fleeing their homelands. We've been shocked by mass shootings in which young children are murdered in their classrooms and grandmothers and fathers are gunned down in grocery store aisles. In conversation after conversation I've had over the past two weeks, common threads of anger and hopelessness are woven together along with a profound sense of helplessness. We've been here before. As the years go by, more of us have tragic stories to tell. I was living in Oregon in 1998 when a 15 year old boy murdered his parents and then went to his high school cafeteria in our community and shot 50 rounds of ammunition, wounding 24 and killing two students. This was one year before the shocking attack at Columbine High School in Colorado.

How do we respond to these days in faithfulness and with hope?

1. Take a break from the news. Turn off the television or radio, stop scrolling on social media, or close that news tab on your computer. The news will be there later, when you return.
2. Do something physical, if you can. Take a walk, ride a bike, or go to the gym. Spend time working in your garden or yard.
3. Make a commitment to write down one thing each day for which you are grateful. Write it down in a small notebook, noting something in your day that brings you joy. At the end of a week, review your growing list. Keep the practice up for a month, and then read the complete list aloud. This practice of paying attention and intentional recognition will uncover what you cherish in life.
4. Tend to a spiritual practice in your daily life. Perhaps you may wish to begin with simple meditation or a time of prayer. Practice letting your mind fall silent. If sitting still is difficult, you may wish to explore walking meditations. Walk FCC's labyrinth, holding your prayers in your heart as you walk to the center and opening your awareness to direction from Spirit as you make your way back outside. Gina Marie Mammano has written a book of moving meditations to use while walking, *Camino Divina: Walking the Divine Way*.
5. Seek community. Join in Sunday worship or in Thursday vespers. Praying together and sharing communion will help ground you in your faith and connect you with others.

Notice my list is not explicitly political or especially activist in nature. Engagement in politics or activism without being spiritually grounded leads to burnout. Tending to our spiritual well-being will enable us to commit to the long hard work of social transformation. Matthew Fox in *Occupy Spirituality: a Radical Vision for a New Generation* reflects, "I feel passionate about the changes I call for, both personal and societal transformations, and I see them as deeply related. If you don't work on yourself then much of your politics is merely projections. We have to do the inner work that allows the outer work to be authentic and also effective."

Let us not lose heart. The gift of life is precious, fragile, and holy. Let us tend to the sacred in our world with hope and courage.

*Pastor Nancy*



## **Morehead Normal School Established by the Buttons** *A Continuing Look Back at MSU*

*Beginnings* (excerpt from [\*A Light to the Mountains\* by Donald E. Flatt, p14-16](#))

Morehead Normal School started out under discouraging conditions. Before leaving Midway, Phebe Button wrote a friend back in Illinois, "We will be so isolated that we will miss all the nice papers and periodicals that we have enjoyed, and I hope to enlist all of our friends in helping us by sometimes sending us papers of any kind." She also wrote to her local newspaper there, "We start without school buildings or anything else, except our few books and what few household things we have." She then explained the nature of the new institution by stating it would serve as an elementary school as well as a place in which to train teachers.

Enrollment that first year was forever changing. The first student, an orphan named Annie Page, shyly appeared on the first morning of class in a little cottage where the Adron Doran University Center now stands. That afternoon Ethel Bertie Hamm also enrolled. Two others joined her on the second day and others followed, a trickle of humanity at first which grew into a steady stream. Twenty-two students were attending by the end of November. Although Phebe and her son Frank (Dr. Frank Button, principal) already had more pupils than they could care for, enrollment jumped to fifty-two by February 1888. Ten other youngsters had to be turned away because of a lack of space. Between the middle of February and the last of March 1888, eleven students dropped out due to the opening of a new public school. The first school year finished with thirty-two pupils; enrollment hovered around that same number the following year.

Button subsequently wrote an article about the beginning of the school for a national publication of the Christian Church. A man in California read about Annie Page and wrote to the Morehead principal to obtain additional information about her parents. It turned out that she was the man's niece, and he sent money for her to come to California. There she was well-educated and later was married.

Morehead Normal School intended to provide the kind of educational opportunities to Eastern Kentucky which were enjoyed by other parts of the state. Its founders looked upon three things as of utmost importance: training public school teachers, preparing for vocations, and bringing a liberal arts education to the people of the region at reasonable cost.

In order to carry out its mission, the institution needed a schoolhouse. General William Withers' liberality paved the way for the school during its first three years, including a \$100 gift to be used in constructing a classroom building. At this point, the generosity of a second Confederate officer and patron of the Christian Church, the Honorable Thomas F. Hargis, provided four acres of land for the campus, as well as \$500 for a classroom building, to maintain a school intended "for the exclusive use and control of the Christian Church." This land was located on the west end of today's campus, in the vicinity of the present Camden-Carroll Library and Allie Young Hall. Hargis, a former Kentucky chief justice of the Court of Appeals living in Louisville but reared in Morehead, attached this conditional clause to the deed: 'It must be used by second party for an academy and school learning or it will be reverted back to the first party.' By the summer of 1889, the two-room multi-purpose building had been completed. The removal of a partition permitted the use of one large room for church services and Sunday School.



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.

# Pentecost Offering

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

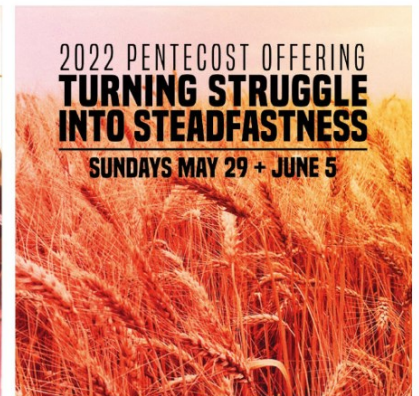
Stories of struggle are nothing new to the church. From the persecution faced by early Christians to civil rights movements led by faith leaders, the church has found its strength in times of unrest.

The COVID-19 pandemic is yet another chapter in this long history, both nothing unique and yet entirely different. Through it all, Disciples have been steadfast. By launching emerging congregations, they have stepped up to care for communities in need. But they don't do it alone. With the help of regional and general ministries, these brave leaders have been provided with facilities to conduct their outreach activities and with online educational opportunities, such as Leadership Academy.

By making a gift to the 2022 Pentecost Offering, you can ensure that the new church movement continues to prosper in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Each year, half of the gifts we give go to our Kentucky region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders across the United States and Canada through programs such as coaching, New Church Hacks, and Water the Plants.

Planning, nurturing, and sustaining new places of worship is part of the Disciples' vision – participation in this Special Day Offering helps this vision come to life. Please give generously to this year's Pentecost offering.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
227 East Main Street  
Morehead, KY 40351

