

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

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The Echo

First Christian Church of Morehead

Volume 21 Issue 3

March 2021

Service of Installation for

Pastor Nancy FEBRUARY 28 AT 1 PM ON ZOOM

She's been leading us in worship since July of 2020, but we have yet to hold a service of installation for Pastor Nancy. Rather than wait until we can join together in the sanctuary together, we're trying something new—a virtual installation service. After our live Facebook worship service, you'll want to join us on Zoom Sunday, February 28, at 1:00 PM. Our transitional regional minister Dean Phelps will join in the celebration. An invitation to the Zoom service will be sent out with our weekly worship information



Reverend Dean Phelps

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to March! A time for the wearing of the green, basketball madness, the beginning of springtime, and, in our church year, observance of the Lenten season.



President Genny Jenkins

As we approach the end of winter and navigate the 40 days before Easter, I find myself eager for connections. And, although we are still in a time of distancing ourselves physically from one another, our congregational opportunities for connections have rarely been more plentiful. If you are like me and missing each other, maybe one of these options is right for you!

First, consider attending Vespers. Thursday night at 7:00pm is a lovely check-in with our fellow disciples filled with scripture, prayer, music, art, and sharing. You can participate as much or as little as you wish.



Message p2

Notes From Pastor Nancy

Let yourself be inert, wait until the incomprehensible power...

that has broken you restores you a little, I say 'a little' because henceforth you will always keep something broken about you.

—Marcel Proust

As I write this, the United States has just marked a staggering milestone—over 500,000 people have died because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Five hundred thousand individual lives ended, each one leaving behind many more loved ones who grieve their loss. If we had



Reverend Nancy Gowler

known the enormity of our nation's loss when we entered into lockdown efforts a year ago, would things have unfolded differently? Could we have set aside differences and instead pledged ourselves to care for our neighbors as ourselves? What if we had been called to commit ourselves anew to the idea of *E pluribus unum*, could we have risen to the occasion?

It is too late, of course, to ask such questions. Half a million people have died; one hundred thousand lost since January. As I wrote that grim statistic, I found it unbelievable, so I stopped to check my facts. And yes, it's real. On January 19th we marked 400,000 deaths from the pandemic, at a rate of one death from COVID-19 every 26 seconds. On February 22, the death toll reached 500,000, and although thankfully the rate has slowed, we continue to lose more lives each day.

I began this note to you with a line from a letter Marcel Proust wrote to his friend, Georges de Lauris, after the death of his friend's mother in 1907.

Notes p2

Message p1 Not feeling camera ready? Leave your camera off and just listen in. This is a low-pressure situation for those looking for a connection.

Our ladies' discussion group continues to meet on Tuesday nights for scripture study and anyone is welcome to join us for those Zoom discussions. Contact Sarah Chaney for a link to join in.

Another option would be a Sunday night attendance at our Lenten Film Festival. This will run for the next several weeks and is a great way to enjoy some worthy movies and to share in lively discussion about them.



New for us this year is also the Bless This Mess Teatime on Mondays at 3:00pm during Lent. Sharing some discussion questions and sipping some lovely tea from our Lent at

Home bags...ah, what a nice way to connect.

Looking for a more specific and long-term option? Check out our church committees which remain active. In particular, the Evangelism committee is looking for members (you can contact Mary Claire Williams to join), but there are plenty of opportunities with other committees if you're interested! Reach out to the church office and we'll connect you with the chairperson of whichever committee you're seeking.

We need each other now more than ever and when you connect with one of these options, not only do you benefit from the interactions, but the others in attendance benefit from your presence as well. I hope to see you soon at one of our gatherings and in the meantime, if you need anything at all, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Genny Jenkins



From Pastor Nancy p1

The letter is a gift, written from the heart of one who has carried the weight of grief himself. "You will always keep something broken about you," Proust shares gently. We know this to be true from our own experiences of loss. Grief reveals the fragileness of our existence, of the relationships we cherish, and all those we take for granted.

Going forward our nation will carry with us something broken, too. The question before us now is what will we do with this brokenness? We may have missed the moment to change direction last year, but now that it is past, now that so many people must gather up the broken pieces of their lives, what might we do differently?



As we hold these questions in our hearts, the church has entered into the season of Lent. We marked the season with the sign of the cross in ashes. In the weeks ahead we will walk

alongside Jesus as he journeys to the cross, and we will hear his haunting invitation to take up our own cross and follow. The shadow of the cross looms over these days; the grim realities of death and human betrayal are never far from the story. Lent moves us to acknowledge the brokenness in our own lives and in the world around us.



It's only when we are honest with ourselves and one another that we may truly grasp the promise of Lent that those who want to save their lives, must lose them. It is in this paradox we discover the hope of the season. As Leonard Cohen so aptly put it, "There is a crack, a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in." The brokenness of our lives, of our nation, of the world holds within it the possibility of renewal. The choice is before us: God offers us life, abundant life, overflowing with grace and wonder.

Pastor Nancy



God can bring beauty from ashes.

Choir & Bells



Genny Jenkins
Choir Director

The music department continues to support the worship of the church with recorded music for Vespers and live music on Sunday mornings. We so appreciate our church choir members and our interns for continuing to share their gifts with us. And a special thank you to Jiyeon McGillicuddy, our extraordinary pianist and accompanist, who has gone above and beyond in these last months to provide us with amazing Sunday morning music.

Genny Jenkins



Sarah Chaney
Bell Director

A Message from the Creation Care Team



Photographs of birds wanted. Send to Mark by March 25.

The snows and winter cold have been hard on all of God's creatures, yet their resilience is a sign of God's care for the world. Psalm 104:12 tells us "The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches." To help us welcome spring, the Creation Care Committee invites you to submit a photograph that you have taken to the Committee of a bird in nature, perhaps at a feeder or one nesting in a tree near or on your property or one in flight or one just perching. We would like to include these submissions as space permits in the April Echo. If possible, identify the species of the bird as well in your submission.

Please send your submissions to Mark Etherton (ginn1@windstream.net).

Asking the Big Questions

BOOK DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH



We are called to live out this good-news story not as isolated well meaning individuals, but as a team that is publicly encountered in the ordinary context of particular places. If the only place our neighbors can experience the body of Christ is during our worship services, we have failed. The only viable way we can invite people to experience the good news of the gospel is by displaying a real community of people in a real place-this is the ancient practice that God is calling forth in our new day.

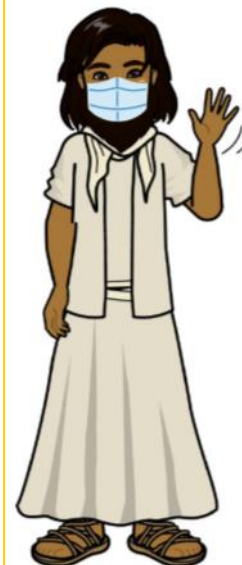
—Tim Soerens,
*Everywhere You Look:
Discovering the Church Right
Where You Are*

What is the church called to do and be in our time and in this particular place? That's the question Tim Soerens wants Christians to ask, not in a fearful, defensive way, but from a hope-filled and practical stance.

We'll be reading the first four chapters of the book for our 7 PM March 15th Zoom conversation, and we'll continue the discussion of the book on April 19th. Your voice matters, so please pick up the book wherever you buy your books and join us for an invigorating discussion on March 15th.

Meet Flat Jesus

He's based on Flat Stanley, star of the book by Jeff Brown. Young Stanley wakes up to find himself flattened to just 1/2" thick. Flat Jesus is a riff on those Flat Stanley Adventures, a playful reminder Jesus is our constant companion. Cut him out and take him with you wherever you go,



and snap photos of him while you do.

Please share your photos with us on social media or in an email.

~Thank You~

Thank you to Alan Williams, Lexington, KY, who donated a new kerosene heater, kerosene fuel, and a pump "because he had heard of people who had passed away due to reasons related to no heat." He said his wife found our number on the internet. He drove all the way from Lexington just to deliver. His thoughtfulness extended to putting new batteries in the heater.



Sermons @
Morehead FCC

sermons preached
at the historic
First Christian Church
of Morehead, Kentucky






Listen to sermon podcasts each week wherever you get your podcasts. Search for Sermons at Morehead FCC or use these links.

[Spotify](#)

[Google Podcasts](#)


[Pocket Casts](#)

(Hold down Ctrl key and place cursor on underlined name; click to link to podcast.)


**Coloring As
Spiritual Practice**

How are you using your Lent at Home kit to deepen your spiritual practices? Coloring can be a meditative practice, taking us out of our heavy reliance upon words and allowing the Spirit to settle our minds and hearts. We still have a few kits left. Contact the office to pick up a kit or have a touchless delivery.



March Birthdays 

Public Parking at FCC
Please contact the office to reserve a space.

Jan-July \$125 
Aug-Dec \$125

For more information, please contact the office (606) 784-4836 or fccmky@gmail.com.

Note this will not affect anyone who holds a parking permit.

Office (606) 784-4836

- 1- Don Williams
- 4- Jim Fred Cassity
- 9- Lee Chaney
- 18- Elizabeth Ash
- 22- Cathy Hammond
- 23- Jon Jenkins
- 23- Jaz Johnson
- 30- John Akers

**Opportunities for
Connection\Contact the
office for Zoom Invitations**

Women of the Bible Study
via Zoom

Tuesdays 7pm—7:30pm
Contact Sarah Chaney by email
sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com or
call (606) 207-2421.

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**VESPERS** via Zoom

A time of song & prayer

Thursdays 7pm

Message the office for a Zoom  
invitation. Vespers includes  
music, prayer, and meditation  
on artwork revealing God's  
word. Communion is a part of  
the service, so have some bread  
or cookie, water or liquid, if you  
would like to partake.

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**The Congregation is Invited
to Join Committees**

The Evangelism Committee
Chairperson is Mary Claire
Williams @ (606) 776-8430 or
mc.williams@moreheadstate.edu.

Creation Care Committee
Chairperson is Mark
Etherton at 606-776-1745 or
ginn1@windstream.net.

The Education Committee
Chairperson is Sarah Chaney
at 606-207-2421 or
sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com.

Mack Fund
(Techology)

In memory of
Peggy Bizzel

by

Joyce Hart

~

In memory of

Rev. Harold Tackett

by

Jane Y. Holbrook

~

In memory of

Margaret Pryor
(Bob Pryor's mother)

by

Joyce Hart

~

Living Memorial Fund

In memory of

**Lillie Ella (Townsend)
Stephens**

(Susan & Mary Whidden's aunt,
Jack Whidden's sister-in-law)

Cody Williams

(Don Williams father)

By

Fran Helphinstine & Rob Sloss



**THE LORD BETWEEN
THEE AND ME, WHILE
WE ARE APART, FROM
ONE TO ANOTHER.
ALWAYS REMEMBER
THE POWER OF THE
CROSS AND GOD'S LOVE.**

**February Treasurer's
Report**

Income for the first three
Sundays is \$9,129.68.
Expenses for the period are
\$6,422.38.



When you give to Week of Compassion, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, including the relief efforts in Texas. Through sustainable development projects, our partners help provide life-giving water and other critical resources that help communities reinvent and reimagine what is possible. When water comes to a village, people are safer, healthier, and more free to pursue learning and growth opportunities. **Let love flow**, and share more than just water. Week of Compassion offerings are February 21 and 28.

First Christian Church Outreach Update



Housewarming Baskets for Gateway Homeless Shelter

We have collected many household items. The February basket will be picked up this week. The inclement weather delayed this month's baskets and many folks could not safely venture out to bring their items. Looking ahead, March items will be due March 10th.

A few reminders about baskets...

- *You can drop off items, EACH MONTH on the 10th OR you can bring in ALL 10 MONTHS at once.
- *Items should be dropped off at church in the Adult Sunday School Room just inside the first floor door.
- *Items are due the 10th of each month.
- *If you did not get signed up for February but want to participate, we still have items available. You can text or call Ronetta at (606)776-0576 and she will get you signed up.
- *If you would like to participate, but do not feel comfortable shopping, you can send in a monetary donation, specifying "Gateway Baskets", and one of the committee members will be glad to shop for you.



Jeff and Ronetta Brown
Outreach Co-chairs

Link: [Gifts for Gateway Homeless Shelter Sign Up](#)

You may still sign up for the following items: hand mixer, toaster, electric can opener, coffee maker, beverage glasses, or bathroom rug/mat.



THANK YOU...

The Outreach Committee would like to extend special thanks to Elizabeth Ash and her Morehead State University student organization group, Eta Sigma Gamma. They have been so generous to our Outreach Program! They provided many extras for the holiday baskets. They have also made a donation of extras, including food and hygiene items, that will go out with our February and March baskets. In addition, this group gave of their time and talents, making Valentines for the elderly in our Christian Care Community. We really appreciate Elizabeth and her students for going above and beyond to enrich our Outreach Program!

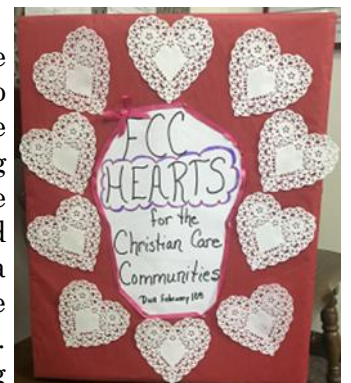


Elizabeth Ash



Christian Care Community Valentines

In spite of the weather, we were able to deliver a large box of Valentines from FCC and Eta Sigma Gamma to Chapel House and Friendship House Christian Care Communities in Grayson. I spoke with them following the ice storm, and was told the Valentines were delivered to their elderly residents and were appreciated so very much. Grayson lost power last week due to a substation fire, and many of the 92 Chapel/Friendship House residents had to be transported to warming stations in the community or picked up by relatives. Power has been restored and they are in the process now of getting everything back to normal.



If you would like to learn more about Christian Care Communities, information is available online at www.christiancarecommunities.org. Thanks to everyone who contributed Valentines!



First Christian March 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Virtual Office Hours: 8:30-1pm						
Monday—Thursday						
28 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45am Worship Service via Facebook; 1:00 Installation of Pastor Nancy via Zoom; 7:00pm Faith & Film Festival Week of Compassion Offering	March 1 Bless this Mess Tea Time 3pm via Zoom	March 2 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com	3 7pm Bell Choir 	4 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm	5 Office closed.	6 
7 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45am Worship Service via Facebook	8 	9 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com to join.	10 7pm Bell Choir	11 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm	12 Office closed.	13 Set clocks back 1 hour before retiring. 
14 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45am Worship Service via Facebook	15 Bless this Mess Tea Time 3pm via Zoom; Book Discussion 7pm	16 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm Email sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com.	17 St. Patrick's Day. 7pm Bell Choir	18 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm	19 Office closed.	20 First Day of Spring 
21 Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45am Worship Service via Facebook	22 Zoom Mtgs: Bless this Mess Tea Time 3pm; 6:30/7pm Exec/ Full Bd Meetings	23 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com to join.	24 7pm Bell Choir 	25 Vespers Service via Zoom 7pm	26 Office closed.	27 
28 Palm Sunday Rev. Nancy Gowler 10:45am Worship Service via Facebook; Newsletter articles due. Easter Offering Mar 28 & Apr 4.	29 Bless This Mess Tea Time 3pm via Zoom	30 Women of the Bible via Zoom 7pm. Email sarah.chaney78@yahoo.com	31 7pm Bell Choir 	April 1 Maundy Thursday Service via Zoom 7pm	Good Friday 	3 Holy Saturday 

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Nancy Gowler,
Minister
Genny Jenkins, Choir
Jiyeon McGillicuddy,
Keyboardist
Sarah Chaney, Bells
Makayla Reynolds, Nursery
Open, Youth

Barbara Marsh, Secretary
227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-4836
Monday-Thursday 8:30-1pm
Email: fccmky@gmail.com
Due to COVID19—our office is closed
until further notice.
Website: www.fccmorehead.org

www.facebook.com/fccmorehead
Join us for livestream
Sunday Worship
Service @ 10:45am



www.flickr.com/photos/139711677@N02/



www.instagram.com/fccmorehead/



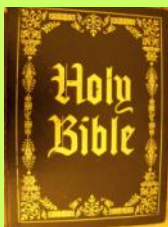
www.youtube.com/user/TheInterper



www.twitter.com/fccmorehead



Bible Lectionary Readings



March 7—John 2:13-22
March 14—John 3:14-21
March 21—John 12:20-33
March 28—Luke 1:26-38

FCC Lenten Film Festival

CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH THROUGH THE MOVIES

FAITH & FILM FOR LENT

Watch each week's film on your own. Then join the conversation at 7pm on Sunday evenings.

February 21 - March 21, 2021
message us for a Zoom invitation

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD



2/21



2/28



3/7



3/14



3/21

Our Advent Film Festival explored the power of music to inspire and empower change on both personal and global levels. For Lent in 2021 the popular conversations return on Sunday evenings at 7 PM. To learn more about films visit the International Film Database [HERE](#). Look for more information in our weekly e-Blasts and on social media. Contact the church office or send us a message to receive a Zoom link invitation.

Bless this Mess Tea Time

JOIN PASTOR NANCY FOR WEEKLY CONVERSATIONS OVER TEA MONDAYS

This year's Lenten devotionals are a collection of devotional cards with prayers, spiritual practices, and conversation questions. Each Monday Pastor Nancy will host an informal Zoom gathering for tea and conversation using the prompt questions for that week. So brew a pot of tea, log onto Zoom and get to know others as we journey through Lent together. Email the church office or send us a message on social media to have an invitation to the Zoom Tea Time sent to you.



*May God bless you and keep you!
May the radiant face of God shine upon you
in our Lenten journey from ashes to crocuses.
In the name of the One who walks with us, Amen.*