

VOL. 23 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2023

THE ECHO

a newsletter of the First Christian Church of Morehead, Kentucky

President's column

MARY CLAIRE WILLIAMS



Greetings, Church Family,

Lent has begun, and as Pastor Nancy said in her sermon yesterday, "we've been here before". I have been reflecting on how to make this Lenten season different from previous years. What will I give up? What will I reflect upon during this season? Then, I attended the beautiful Ash Wednesday service, and I heard a hymn that I don't ever remember hearing before. The

hymn is *These I Lay Down* by John Bell (1989). If you haven't heard it lately, I encourage you to find our Ash Wednesday service on YouTube or Facebook and listen. It begins at the 37 minute mark of the service. I was moved to tears while singing this hymn. It reminded me that Lent doesn't have to be about giving up social media, or pizza, or sleeping in late. It's enough to be seeking self-love and forgiveness. Whatever we do and wherever we are in our journey, we are ENOUGH. We need to remind ourselves daily.

I found a great idea on a blog called "Busted Halo." The writer, Peggy Weber, suggested waking up every morning and going to bed every night during Lent saying to yourself (out loud, if you wish), "I am enough." I love that idea, and I'm going to try it. I hope that you find time to remind yourself that YOU ARE ENOUGH. Christ knows we are enough, and he loves us right where we are (thank goodness).

Let's be sure to keep each other in our prayers as we are all on this journey together.

With love,
Mary Claire

mcwilliams326 (at) gmail (dot) com
(606) 776-8430

This issue:

President's column
PAGE 1

Outreach Update
Faith & Film Festival
PAGE 2

Calendar
PAGE 3

Mission in Honduras
PAGE 4-5

Seeking Logo Explained
PAGE 6-7

Turtle Walk Update
PAGE 8

Treasurer's Report
PAGE 9

Pastor Nancy's Note
PAGE 10

History of FCC
PAGE 11

First Christian Church
227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY 40351

www.fccmorehead.org
(606)784-4836



Intersections of Faith and Film

LENTEN FAITH & FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS MARCH 5TH—ON ZOOM



In its third year FCC's Lenten Faith & Film Festival opens up space to explore questions of faith and spirituality through modern film-making. The movies for 2023 include documentaries, historical drama, animation, and more. Each film is available on popular streaming platforms. You can watch the film on your own during the week whenever you have time. Each Sunday evening at 7PM Pastor Nancy will host a discussion of the week's film on Zoom. Each week's discussion is a stand-alone conversation, so feel free to watch one or all of the films and participate as you can.

Our first film for Sunday, March 5th, is *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On*, a 2023 Academy Award nominee for Best Animated Film. This full-length movie is an expansion of an earlier internet phenomenon. The film addresses questions around the meaning of family, growing old, how to say goodbye, the process of letting go, finding meaning and purpose in life, and so

much more. All these questions are deftly woven through a delightfully playful storyline. The film is available on Showtime, Paramount+, and other streaming platforms.

Email the office or message us through social media to receive a link to the Sunday Zoom conversation.

Outreach Update

RONETTA & JEFF BROWN

Gateway Baskets continue. A few items remain that have not been purchased, if anyone is interested. Those items are casserole dish, hamper, and mops and buckets. Items are due the 10th of each month. Scan the QR code or click on the [Sign-up Genius Link](#).



Yard Sale to benefit Snack Backpack Program is scheduled for Saturday, April 1st, in conjunction with the Morehead Makers' Market. The yard sale will be on the church patio, spilling into the Fellowship Hall, if necessary. Specifics for the yard sale...

Date: April 1st 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Accepted items: Clean and gently used items. We will **NOT** be selling clothing. Please attach a suggested price to each of your items.

Items may be brought to church Fellowship Hall Wednesday, March 29th - Friday, March 31st, during regular church office hours Wednesday and Thursday, and from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm on Friday. Should have items and need assistance with getting them to the church, call Jeff Brown at (606)776-0576 to arrange pickup.

March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	2 7:00pm Vespers (Zoom)	3 Office closed.	4
5 10:45am Worship 2:00pm Trail Walk– Boat Gunnel parking lot 7:00pm Faith & Film Discussion (Zoom)	6	7 7:00pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	8 5:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	9 7:00pm Vespers (Zoom)	10 Office closed.	11
12 Daylight Saving Time 10:45am Worship 2:00pm 2nd Sunday Hike-UMC parking lot 7:00pm Faith & Film Discussion (Zoom)	13 MSU Spring Break through Mar 17	14 7:00pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	15 5:00pm Bells	16 7:00pm Vespers (Zoom)	17 Office closed.	18
19 10:45am Worship 7:00pm Faith & Film Discussion (Zoom)	20	21 7:00pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	22 5:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	23 7:00pm Vespers (Zoom)	24 Office closed.	25
26 10:45am Worship 7:00pm Faith & Film Discussion (Zoom) Newsletter articles due.	27 6:30pm Exec Board (Zoom) 7:00pm Full Board (Zoom)	28 7:00pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	29 5:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	30 7:00pm Vespers (Zoom)	31 Office closed	April 1 Yard Sale 10:00-3:00pm

Mission Snapshot

BOB PRYOR SHARES STORIES OF HONDORAS

“Adios Amigos!” These were the parting words shared with fellow mission travelers and the Honduran families with whom we had worked during the past week. In the small northwestern Honduran town of Trinidad de Copan, 21 “gringos” from SC, VA, AZ and KY formed the team for the latest trip of Palmetto International Mission (PIM). Our mission: to work side-by-side with six families who had applied and been accepted to be part of the 2023 PIM project...beginning to have their dream of a more permanent and secure home become a reality.

Over the past twenty years, PIM has partnered with local Honduran communities to build over 700 homes with families whose previous homes were dirt-floored shacks, often shared with chickens, pigs and other livestock, lacking running water and usually, electricity. And yet we found these people to be warm, welcoming, hardworking, and willing to work with largely unskilled Americans.

By the time our group arrived in Trinidad after an adventurous four-hour bus ride, these families had already hand dug building sites out of the sides of steep hills, hand dug the foundations, hauled a thousand cinderblocks to each site plus 80-pound bags of cement, piles of sand and rock, and gallons of water for mixing the concrete. We were amazed to

see little children carrying cinderblocks up a path that I could hardly climb carrying only my tool bag. The entire community: women, men and children worked together to make sure all the building materials were at the site so construction could begin.

Continued on page 5



Each of our days began with a post breakfast time of devotion before our group split into 3 or 4 work teams, hiking up steep, dirt streets to our various work sites...where we would find our Honduran friends already hard at work. We helped lay out each 6 by 8-meter house, making sure the foundation was level. Then each day consisted of mixing and hauling concrete, carrying large and small rocks to build the foundation and then slowly building course after course of cinderblock walls...all done working side-by-side with our Honduran families and their neighbors. After a full day of working at the sites, our group returned to our retreat house for supper, fellowship, and a time for reflection and sharing about what we had experienced during the day.

By the end of the week, we had built the walls of six houses up to chest high. Over the next few months, the families and their neighbors will finish each house...no one moves in until all six of the houses are finished.

This was my third trip with PIM to Honduras but it was the most special one because both my sons came with me and were able to experience this mission and these wonderful people (nice to have some young guys along to help take care of their “old man!”).

Experiencing the joy that these people have, despite their lack of what you and I would consider necessities, has helped me to see how privileged my life is and how blessed I have been to be able to work side-by-side with these Hondurans. They have certainly shared God’s love with me and all the members of the PIM team. We often speak of God’s call to us to be the hands and feet of Christ...our Honduran families have shown me what that looks like in their humble, quiet way. I hope to return next year and would be happy if some of the First Christian Church congregation came with me...please consider this as an invitation to each of you!



about the logo



An eye feels like a recognizable and even predictable image for the general theme of *Seeking*, however, there is nothing all that simple or straightforward about this Lenten theme. As I studied the texts, I found there was repetition in visual imagery that held the texts together. As I sketched, the logo became layered with imagery that formed more shapes and meaning, sometimes obscuring and revealing more as I went. It was a balance of maintaining the legibility and clarity that is necessary in a logo, while connecting to a theme that is about being unable to find understanding or even tangibility. I wanted the logo at first glance to be somewhat obvious, but at closer inspection, I wanted it to expand, confuse, and surprise. The viewing of the logo itself is a process of seeking meaning.

– Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, designer of the theme logo and branding

The outline of our Seeking logo below may be used to “pray with color,” filling in the layers of imagery with color as you meditate over the questions of Lent.



Wondering about the imagery of our Lenten series, *Seeking: honest questions for deeper faith?*
Here's a guide to help you explore the many components which make up the image.

logo imagery key *what do you see?*



eye- The eye holds all of the logo's imagery and summarizes the theme of seeking, while referencing various narratives from the scriptural texts: Adam & Eve's eyes are opened, Jesus rubs mud on the blind man's eyes, Jesus asks Mary, "Who are you looking for?" The circles that create the pupil and iris can also represent: an aerial view of the well, the water basin at the footwashing, or the stone and tombs of Lazarus and Jesus.



veil- This curved line and the shape it creates repeats throughout the *Seeking* branding. The veil references the confusion and revelations that occur in a journey of seeking.



mud / garden soil- The drop of mud represents the dirt and garden imagery that is found throughout the scriptural texts: the Garden of Eden, the mud that is rubbed in the blind man's eyes, the garden of Gethsemane. It also references when Jesus is mistaken as a gardener at the empty tomb.



water- The drop of water references the many times water is mentioned in the texts. Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be born of water and spirit. Moses strikes a rock to find water. At the well, Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink and offers her living water. Jesus meets the blind man at the pool of Siloam. Jesus washes the disciples' feet. The water drop can also reference a tear; Jesus weeps at the mouth of his friend Lazarus' tomb, and Mary weeps at the mouth of Jesus' tomb.



vessel- The shape of the vessel can be seen as a cup or a jar poured out. The vessel represents: the jar the woman leaves behind at the well after meeting Jesus, the jar of sour wine offered to Jesus while on the cross, and the communion cup present at our remembrance of Christ's sacrifice.



star / night- The star references a couple of the narratives that take place under the veil of night. Nicodemus finds and questions Jesus at night, and Mary comes to the tomb while it is still dark. In reference to the logo's overall eye composition, the star represents the glistening of recognition in one's eye.



leaf- The leaf represents the foliage present throughout the texts, and further supports the repetition of garden imagery. Adam & Eve create fig leaf coverings in the shadow of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and upon Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the crowds wave palm branches.

The Turtles Have Arrived!

MOREHEAD KY TURTLE WALK UPDATE: PHASE ONE MOVING FORWARD



The latest update from Morehead Rowan County Tourism:

The secret is out, the turtles are here!

Artists are picking up their turtles in preparation for their design work. If you didn't know already, Morehead is looking forward to this new opportunity for everyone in the area to enjoy public art and for business to attract visitors to their location: the Morehead Kentucky Turtle walk.

In 1778 Daniel Boone was adopted into the Shawnee tribe and given the name Sheltowee, or Big Turtle by Chief Blackfish. That name may sound familiar as the Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail spans the Daniel Boone National Forest and runs along Main Street right here in Morehead, Kentucky. In the spirit of the turtle, statues decorated by artists and sponsored by local businesses, individuals, nonprofits, or government groups will be placed around our community, making the location an official "Morehead KY Turtle Walk: destination.

Morehead Rowan County Tourism will have another call for sponsors and artists later this year.



First Christian Church will be the home of a turtle from this first group. Jenny Conrad, a Lexington artist who has created horses as part of the LexArts Horse Mania public art project, will be creating our very own turtle to be displayed on our grounds.



Lauren Wright Pittman
© a sanctified art

These I Lay Down

Before I take the body of my Lord,
before I share his life in bread and wine,
I recognize the sorry things within:
these I lay down.

The words of hope I often failed to give,
the prayers of kindness buried by my pride,
the signs of care I argued out of sight:
these I lay down.

John L. Bell
Iona Community
Wild Goose Resource Group

TREASURER'S REPORT FEBRUARY

General gifts and income	\$ 9,485.72
Last week of January	1,825.00
Expenses:	\$16,119.22



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

QUESTION MAP Throughout the Lenten season, we invite you to return to these questions often. Unpack them in conversations, include them in your prayers, and write about them in your journal.

What is your soul yearning for?

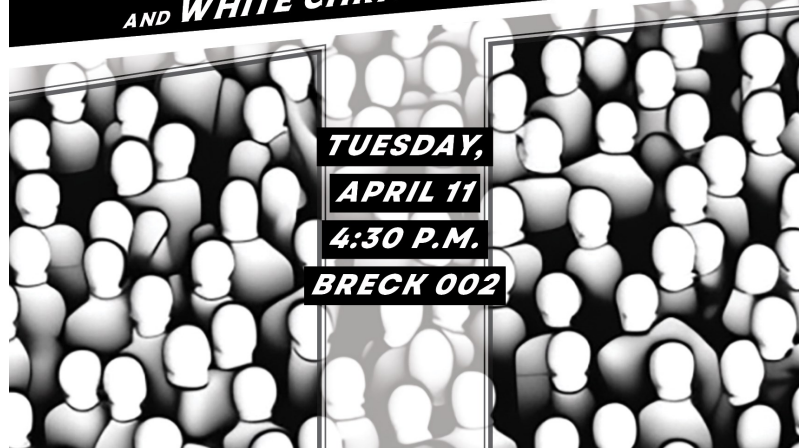
What is holding you back from soulful, wholehearted exploration?

What do you need to know about God to trust God more fully?

Is there another question your soul needs to ask during this Lenten quest?

MARCH

1- DON WILLIAMS
4- JIM FRED CASSITY
5- GRAHAM SWIM
11- BOB PRYOR
18- ELIZABETH ASH
33-CATHY HAMMOND
23- JON JENKINS
23- JASPER HERNANDEZ
26- RON WALKE
30- JOHN AKERS
BIRTHDAYS



REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023
in Louisville, Kentucky
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 2023



Featuring Hinkle speaker
DR. KHYATI JOSHI

M
MOREHEAD STATE
UNIVERSITY
SOAR Higher.

Sponsored by the Gender Studies Program, Department of Sociology, Social Work & Criminology, School of English, Communications, Media & Languages, History program, First Christian Church—Disciples of Christ, and Christians against Christian Nationalism in Rowan County.

For more information, contact Dr. Bernadette Barton at b.barton@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-2710.

Notes from Pastor Nancy

REV. NANCY GOWLER



*Of all the questions you might want to ask
about angels, the only one you ever hear
is how many can dance on the head of a pin.*
—Billy Collins (Questions About Angels)

Dear Disciples,

The lanky chemistry teacher placed one scuffed brown leather loafer on the top rung of the lab stool, as he leaned over to examine the contents of our failed experiment languishing in a glass beaker. He stroked his gray-brown beard with his left hand and then turned to look at my lab partner and me through his NASA classic era eyeglasses. “How would you explain what happened?” he asked us, one eyebrow raised. This was maddening! We had called him over to give us answers, to tell us what we’d obviously done wrong, but instead, he turned the question back to us. It was a classic move by Mr. Rich, our beloved chemistry teacher, who for two years of high school chemistry never stopped pushing us to learn through the process of experimentation, gaining insights from failures and from moments of success.

Our Lenten theme invites questions—each day there is a new question to explore in our daily meditations and prayers. Some big, some seemingly simple, and even a few without obvious answers: Where in your life would you like to say yes? When is the last time you did something new? What are you trying to unlearn? What makes you weary? The prayer cards are available on the table near the elevator or contact the church office to receive daily emails through Lent and Easter.

The questions we ask shape the way we think about our faith, the choices we make in our lives, even our own self-understanding. In the article “The Real Power of Questions” Ron Ritchhart describes a classroom interaction in which a teacher asked the question, “What is the cost of war?” The students answered the question readily, with good and thoughtful responses. Finally the last student answered hesitantly, “Childhood.” Ritchhart writes, “‘Yes,’ the teacher responded, ‘that’s the one I like.’ End of discussion.” Asking an open question coupled with adequate time for reflection and response opens up space for continued learning and for transformation.

Good questions are vital in our congregational life, too. In a BoardSource workshop on the role of church boards, Todd Adams, President of the Disciples’ Pension Fund, described three modes of nonprofit board governance: strategic, generative, and fiduciary. Each mode is an important component of board decision-making and has its own set of questions when approaching an issue.

A fiduciary lens focuses on the stewardship of tangible assets: Do we have enough money or staff for this project? How will this affect our facilities? Will we have any legal liabilities? A strategic lens looks at planning and implementation concerns: What’s the plan? How does this relate to our mission as a congregation? How will we measure outcomes? The generative lens pulls back and is where a board “decides what to decide.” Generative questions are those big picture questions: What larger trends are happening? What are we missing? How will this make an impact? How will this change us? A healthy church board will address an issue with all three lenses, adjusting the questions according to the situation and need.

Asking good questions can be an act of courage, to let go of tired frameworks and look at our lives in a new way, from a perspective we may have considered before. As Billy Collins invites us to consider in his poem, “Questions About Angels,” perhaps we can move beyond the tyranny of medieval theologians and their fixation on a “little dance floor on the head of a pin.” Perhaps now is the time to ask new questions, to see what Spirit is inviting us to imagine anew.

I wonder. How about you?

Pastor Nancy

History Corner

ANNE BUCKNER

Choir

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

History of First Christian Church of Morehead

Church Youth Group Honors Police, Firemen (adapted from *The Morehead News*, November 10, 1978)

A celebration was held November 5, 1978, to honor all the policemen and firefighters of the Morehead area for the work they do on behalf of the city.

The idea for the celebration was developed by the Chi Rho junior high youth group of First Christian Church. The Chi Rho members, feeling that the policeman and firefighters should be honored for their time spent and danger on the job, planned the evening which included food, and a special certificate to each man for a job well done.

Free chili was served at the close of the evening and each man was presented a special certificate which read "Certificate of appreciation from the Chi Rho Youth Group, First Christian Church, Morehead to our Community's Policemen and firefighters for a Job Well Done."

According to one of the Chi Rho members, the "evening was held to let these men who work so hard for the city know how deeply they are appreciated."

A special certificate also was awarded during the evening to Herman Brown, superintendent of the Morehead Utility Plant Board, for his service to Morehead.



Logan Smalley, MSU intern

Hometown: Flemingsburg, KY

Major: Music Education

Interests: Nature and music

Hobbies: Hiking and reading

Voice: Baritone

Future Plans: Choir Director

Logan joins other MSU choir interns
Maura McCoy, Mason Pack, and Katie Webb.



The Chi Rho youth group of first Christian Church is pictured with firemen and policemen during a 1978 recognition for the officers. Front row, from left, are Chi Rho members Cara Mayhew, Mea Griffith, Valerie Hedges, Donnie Laferty, Mike Adkins, Joel Back and Ty Fannin. Middle row, firefighters Billy Wells, Rich Roberts, Craig James, Roger Russell, Danny Mabry, Kim Reyno0lds, Teddy Ginter, Randy Day, Bill Hankinson, Ronnie Day and Mike Curtis. Back row, Chi Rho member Joe Kephart, policemen and firefighters Bill Bowman, Mike Kash, Gary Gardner, Lloyd Oakley, Plant board superintendent Herman Brown, Kenneth Trent, Glenn Terrell, Tim McBrayer, John Brown, Lee Helwig, Denny Northcutt, Lynn Johnson, Gordon Lambert, Austin Knipp, Steve Sturgill, Jim Barker, Eddie Holbrook and Jerry Alderson.

Lenten Faith at Home

CHILDREN STORYTELLING KITS AVAILABLE

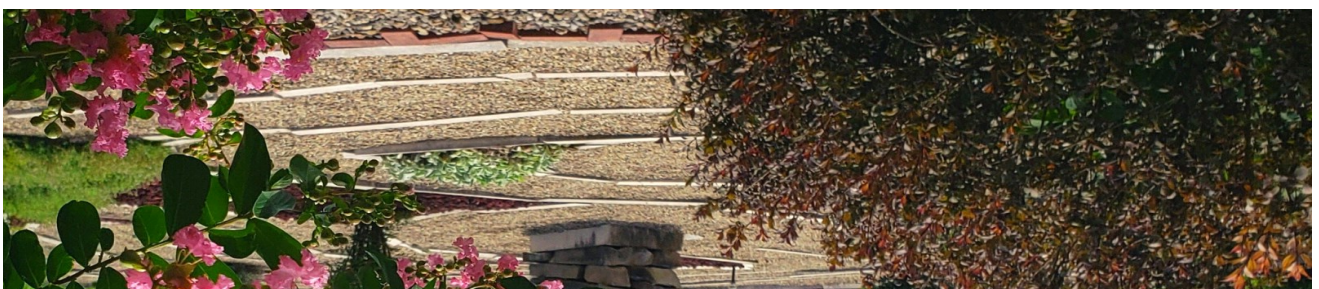
Looking for a way to share the gospel stories during Lent with the children in your life? Check out our take-home storytelling kits and children bulletins, available each week to use in worship or at home. Kits include felt storytelling pieces, bible story script, wondering questions, and prayer.

Sharing stories of faith with children at home opens up moments for faith to grow, both in you and the little ones in your life.

The first one storytelling kit on Jesus's time in the wilderness is now available. Look for new kits each Sunday through Easter.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY 40351



Place
Stamp
Here