

VOL. 24 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2024

# THE ECHO

a newsletter of the First Christian Church of Morehead, Kentucky

## Notes from Pastor Nancy

REV. NANCY GOWLER



One of the wonderful benefits of our Lenten devotional, *The Poetry of Lent*, has been the opportunity to break open again Mary Oliver's amazing collection of poetry, *Devotions*. As much as I love her way with words, I had forgotten that so many of her moving reflections are drawn from her observations of birds. Here's one such gem, from her poem, "I Happened to be Standing."

*"...While I was thinking this I happened to be standing  
just outside my door, with my notebook open,  
which is the way I begin every morning.  
Then a wren in the privet began to sing.*

*He was positively drenched in enthusiasm,  
I don't know why. And yet, why not.*

*I wouldn't persuade you from whatever you believe  
or whatever you don't. That's your business.  
But I thought, of the wren's singing, what could this be  
if it isn't a prayer?  
So I just listened, my pen in the air."*

Just listen. Part of the experience of birding is intentionally slowing down, listening for the songs and sounds of the birds, and learning to distinguish the songs from one another. Birding takes time and attention. It opens us up to focusing on something other than ourselves, which seems a perfect spiritual practice for Lent.

I've downloaded on my phone the app, Merlin, which is a bird identification app developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Each morning I open the app to help identify the birds who sing in my backyard. There are the usual birds—cardinals, crows, blue jays, swallows, robins, finches, doves, and grackles. Their songs are vibrant and loud. Recently Canadian geese are beginning to make their way back home. This morning off in the distance I could hear the echoing drums of a downy woodpecker, busy working to find breakfast. It was glorious!

The morning air is filled with prayers...if we just stop and listen.

*Pastor Nancy*

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# Outreach Committee Update

JOYCE MARIN, MEMBER

The Outreach Committee received this nice thank you from Bev Gilliam, director of Christian Social Service in Morehead:

"Thank you so much for this second round of Kroger cards. It was like Christmas all over for these folks. A fifty dollar gift card just means so much to them.... Please tell everyone in your church how much they were appreciated. We've seen lots of happy people this week thanks to the generosity of your church."



Ronetta and Jeff Brown,  
Co-chairs

**Yard Sale.** We are considering another yard sale the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. This is a big undertaking which raises a large amount of money for our school backpack program. Please contact Susan Whidden if you would be able to help with one or more of the following:

- coordinating (perhaps co-coordinators)
- set up
- take down
- price items
- work a two-hour shift
- help deliver unsold items to Goodwill

**Gateway Homeless Shelter.** There are 6 items left on the Gateway Housewarming Baskets list. Please consider helping with one of the following items:

- 9 large cooking pots
- 9 casserole dishes
- 9 sets of standard pillows
- 9 bathroom rugs or mats
- 9 kitchen trash cans
- 9 mops and buckets

**Outreach Meeting March 6 @ 5pm.** If you would like to join the Outreach Committee, please contact Elizabeth Ash or any member of the committee. Everyone is welcome. We are meeting in the Fellowship Hall.



**Woodcutting Ministry donates to Christian Social Services.** Members (l to r) Carlos Marin, Bob Pryor, and Brent Rogers prepared firewood. Others not pictured are Dan Thomas and Jeff Brown.  
— Photo by Jeff Brown.

Instant  
**Church Directory™**  
Online

## You Can Now Submit Your Own Updates to the Directory

Simply submit a suggested update to your address, photo, email or phone for church approval right from the online directory. It's that easy!



### How FCC Members can submit updates to their family or family member details.

1. Log in at <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>.
2. Click "Edit My Family" in the menu bar.
3. Complete your updates on-screen.
4. Click the "Submit Edits" button.



# Helping a New Family to Morehead

FAITH IN ACTION

Bob Pryor, Roy Reynolds, Silas Thomas and friend Melody, and Yvonne Baldwin spent a late December afternoon assisting a mother and daughter move into their new Divide Hill apartment. They related their story to Yvonne following worship that Sunday and a sturdy team of volunteers came together to help. Within two hours the U-haul was empty and the newcomers were able to unpack in their new home.

— Yvonne Baldwin, chair of the Elders

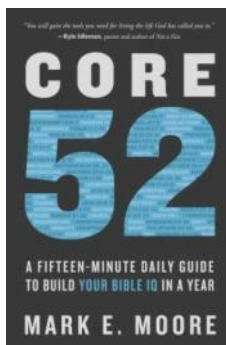


## March Birthdays

- 4- Jim Fred Cassity
- 5- Graham Swim
- 9- Lee Chaney
- 11- Bob Pryor
- 18- Elizabeth Ash
- 22- Cathy Hammond
- 23- Jon Jenkins
- 23- Jasper Johnson
- 26- Ron Walke
- 28- Maddox Reinhard
- 30- John Akers

## Women's Bible Study

TUESDAYS, 7PM ON ZOOM



Each Tuesday night women in our congregation come together on Zoom for a half hour of bible study and conversation. This year our discussion guide is Mark Moore's book, *Core 52*. Please contact the church office or Sarah Chaney if you are interested.

## Vespers Paused during Lent

THURSDAYS 7PM ET

We will resume our vespers service in April, following the book, [\*Practicing Our Faith: a Way of Life for a Searching People\*](#), edited by Dorothy C. Bass.

## Faith & Film FESTIVAL

SUNDAYS @7PM ON ZOOM DURING LENT

## GIVING NEWS

### TREASURER'S REPORT

### FEBRUARY 2024

<b>General gifts and income</b>	\$ 13,848.44
<b>Other Income</b> ( <i>Endowment transfer</i> )	\$ 24,000.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$14,143.58

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

*to the Outreach Fund in memory of*

**Reverend Joseph E. DeVore**

by Sandy and John Gullett

*to the Mack Fund in memory of*

**Karen Cassity Ross**

**Jim Whidden**

by Ginny and Mark Etherton

## THANK YOUS

Dear First Christian Church,  
I write to thank you for your partnership with the region. Your spiritual, physical, and financial support made the region stronger, and in how we connect and equip one another. I wanted to offer my deep appreciation for the 6% increase in your congregation's 2023 Disciple Mission Fund giving and the increase in your support for Special Day offerings.

Again, thank you. It is a joy to be in the ministry together.

—Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett II  
Regional Minister  
*Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*  
*in Kentucky*

Thank you so much for your monetary donation to our organization! It is greatly appreciated!

—DOVES staff

## 2024 ENDOWMENTS COMMITTEE DISBURSEMENTS

From the Living Memorial Fund:

Christian Social Services	\$2,000
DOVES of Gateway	\$2,000
Gateway Homeless Shelter	\$3,000
People's Clinic	\$2,000
Human Concerns	\$8,200

From Inez Faith Humphrey Fund:

Operations ( <i>budget support</i> )	\$12,000
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From the Youth Fund:

Operations ( <i>youth-related activities</i> )	\$12,000
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Total funds disbursed: \$41,000

## FCC ENDOWMENT FUNDS

**ENDOWMENT FUNDS** are growing resources that extend the ministries of our congregation. Endowment funds are invested through The Christian Church Foundation, and the income is used annually.

The **LIVING MEMORIAL FUND** was created by forward thinking FCC members. The principal may grow, but is not to be used. The major restriction is that income may not be used for the operating budget.

The **INEZ FAITH HUMPHREY FUND** began in the 1990s as a response to trends within the larger church, particularly declining numbers of major donors to church ministries. Under the guidance of Rev. Harold Tackett, the initial seed money for this fund was the sale of the church's parsonage. Over time larger gifts were added to this vital fund. This fund exists to help us navigate lean times. There are no restrictions on the fund, and the FCC board prayerfully approaches the use of the generated income.

The **YOUTH FUND** was established through the generosity of a single donor to support the education and growth of youth in the church.

*Have questions about our Endowment funds and how you may contribute? Please speak with our Endowment Committee chair, David Perkins.*

# Youth Updates

## SNOWTUBING

The FCC and Mount Sterling church youth enjoyed snowtubing at Perfect North Slopes on February 4.

Please reach out to Pastor Nancy or Mary Claire Williams for more information on youth activities.



Left photo: Bradyn Perry, Ellie Williams, and Mary Claire Williams enjoyed snowtubing at Perfect North Slopes with Mt. Sterling Christian Church youth (above).



## CAMP WAKON'DA-HO 2024 DATES

YOSEMITE, KY | REGISTER AT [CCINKY.NET](http://CCINKY.NET)

SPRING WORK WEEKEND	APRIL 12-14
MINI CAMP (2-3)	MAY 31-JUNE 2
CYF 1 (9-12)	JUNE 3-8
EIGHTER'S CAMP (8)	JUNE 9-15
JUNIOR CAMP (4-5)	JUNE 17-21
CAMP 101A (K-2*)	JUNE 21-23
CYF 2 (9-12)	JUNE 24-29
CHI RHO 1 (6-8)	JULY 1-6
CHI RHO 2 (6-8)	JULY 8-13
CAMP 101B (K-2*)	JULY 20
Y'ALL CAMP (ALL AGES*)	AUGUST 30-SEPT 1
FALL FEST (ALL AGES*)	OCTOBER (DATES TBD)

\*FIND DETAILS REGARDING AGE RESTRICTIONS, CHAPERONE REQUIREMENTS, AND PRICING AT [CCINKY.NET/MINISTRIES/CAMP/WAKONDA-HO](http://CCINKY.NET/MINISTRIES/CAMP/WAKONDA-HO)

## SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

### CYF Camps 1 & 2

For youth who completed grades 9-12 in 2024. We offer housing that accommodates any camper's gender identity. These camps also feature a closing night formal banquet, so campers should pack a nice outfit.

### Eighters Camp

For youth who completed grade 8 in 2024. We offer housing that accommodates any camper's gender identity. Eighters specializes in human sexuality and spirituality. The Christian Church in Kentucky partners with *Just Say Know Ministries*, [justsayknowministry.com](http://justsayknowministry.com) for this camp.

### Chi Rho Camps 1 & 2

For youth who completed grades 6-8 in 2024. We offer housing that accommodates any camper's gender identity.

### Junior Camp

For youth who completed grades 4-5 in 2024.

### Mini Camp

For youth that completed grades 2\*-3 in 2024.

### Camps 101A & B

For youth that completed grades K-2\* in 2024. These camps are designed to orient children to the camping experience. It

also provides an opportunity for them to share the adventure with a trusted friend. Each camper must be accompanied by a parent, grandparent, guardian, or other adult aged 21 or older. Like the camper, the accompanying adult needs to fully register for the camp. 101A is a weekend long, sleepover camp. 101B is a single day but does include all the activities of the overnight camp.

For more information visit [ccinky.net](http://ccinky.net).

**\*Campers that have completed grade 2 can choose either Mini camp or one of the 101 camps.**



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENTS

JOIN KENTUCKY DISCIPLES WOMEN FOR OUR SPRING CONFERENCE



Disciples Women's Ministries is a conduit for diverse connections empowering each woman to find her voice and live out her call. (Micah 6:8)

Through Kentucky Disciples Women's Ministries/Christian Women's Fellowship, the Region works with women to develop congregational leaders and provide fellowship opportunities for the women of the church to build a sense of connectedness to the larger church.

### IMPORTANT 2024 DATES:

#### Spring Conferences

Come out and CELEBRATE 150 years of Disciples Women's Ministry!!!

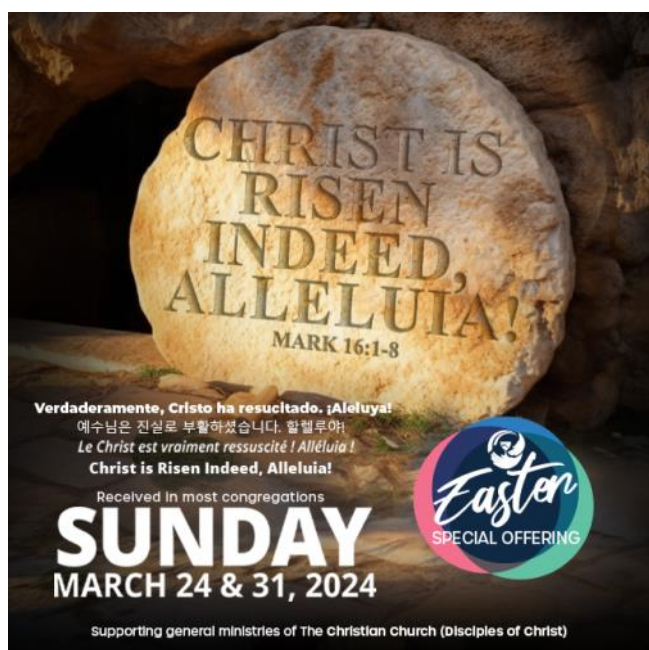
There will be two spring conferences held this year. The Central Kentucky spring conference will be held April 13 at First Christian Church, Danville. The message will be delivered by Rev. Sheila L. Edwards.

The West Area spring conference will be held April 27 at First Christian Church, Owensboro. Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler will be our guest speaker.

The theme for our conferences is "Through the Looking Glass: Seeing the World through the eyes of Faith" – Matthew 13:6-7 . Registration is \$30.00 per person.

#### Quilters' and Knitters' Retreat - June 24 - 27

Save the date! Look for more information coming soon.



## Extra Hotel Toiletries?

D.O.V.E.S. COLLECTING ITEMS FOR SHELTER

Do you have extra unopened hotel toiletry items taking up space in your bathroom?

We're now collecting small-sized personal toiletry bottles for guests at D.O.V.E.S., a local domestic violence shelter in Rowan County.

Bring your unopened bottles or soap bars to the church and place in our collection bin.



# March 2024

..Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10:45am Worship 7pm Faith & Film Festival (Zoom)	4	5 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	6 4pm Baptism class 5pm Outreach Com. 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	7	8 Office closed.	9 10am Hike Fern Valley Loop Contact Brian Buelterman.
10 10:45am Worship 2pm 2nd Sunday Hike 7pm Faith & Film Festival (Zoom)	11	12 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	13 4pm Pastor's class 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	14	15 Office closed.	16
17 10:45am Worship 7pm Faith & Film (Zoom)	18	19 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	20 4pm Pastor's class 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	21	22 Office closed.	23
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Easter Offering</b> 10:45am Worship (Zoom) Newsletter articles due.	25 7pm Full Board meeting (Zoom)	26 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	27 4pm Pastor's class 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	28 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6pm Maundy Thursday Service, First Baptist Church	29 <b>Good Friday</b> 6pm Good Friday Service, First Baptist Church	30
31 <b>Easter</b> <b>Easter Offering</b> 10:45am Worship (Zoom)						



# holy week

ECUMENICAL  
WORSHIP

## maundy thursday

March 28 at 6:00 pm

*dinner with communion,  
prayer stations, and foot washing*

First Christian Church  
227 E. Main St.

## good friday

March 29 at 6:00 pm

*Tenebrae service of scripture  
reading and music*

First Baptist Church  
123 E. Main St.

## Lenten Devotionals

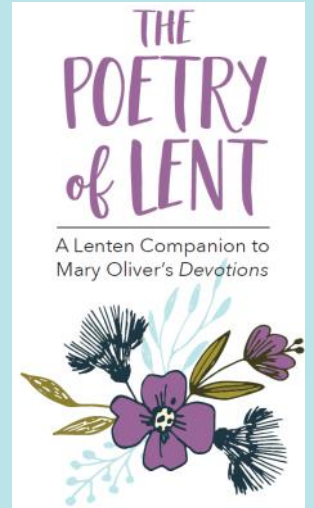
Scripture and poetry continue to guide our Lenten journey through March leading up to Holy Week and Easter.

In what ways have you found inspiration for these days of preparation?

Have you taken up something new as a result of your reflections?

Copies of the devotional booklets, *The Poetry of Lent*, are available at the entrance to the sanctuary.

To receive a digital copy of the devotional, please contact the church office.



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
227 East Main Street  
Morehead, KY 40351



Place  
Stamp  
Here