

THE ECHO

a newsletter of the First Christian Church of Morehead, Kentucky

Campaign for Kindness: Do unto Others

SERIES ON THE GOLDEN RULE LEADS INTO 2024 ELECTION



A vote is a kind of prayer for the world we desire for ourselves and our children.

—Sen. Raphael Warnock, Pastor,
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta

**Kindness. Compassion. Humility.
Respect. Love.**

Each of these is a simple, yet enduring value. Together we've explored ways of expanding our capacity of these core values, through prayer, meditation, and practices which can reshape our interactions with others, even those with whom we disagree. None of this is easy nor is it a quick fix.

Early in-person voting in Kentucky will have already begun by the time you read these words. A sample ballot is available online at the Rowan County Clerk's [website](#). My parents taught me the importance of voting by taking me with them when they voted. There I saw the ties of a small community strengthened by volunteers and neighbors coming together on Election Day.

I continued that tradition with my son. When Washington state transitioned to all mail-in voting, that process moved to our kitchen table as I filled out my ballot, and we would later drop it off at the local library. While Ben was in college, we would meet at a coffee shop with our ballots and voting guides. (Washington state provides nonpartisan voting guides with candidate statements for all state, county, and school board candidates, as well as pro and con statements for ballot initiatives. I miss those!) Our conversations were vibrant and enlightening, as I listened to his thought processes, and we shared our personal values and political commitments.

This year, I'm going to the polls wearing my Campaign for Kindness t-shirt—a reminder of the best our communities can be and a personal commitment to play my part in creating a better world for us all. #DoUntoOthers

Pastor Nancy

This issue:

Do Unto Others
PAGE 1

Vespers, Community
Dinner, Fall Youth Retreat
PAGE 2

Elders' Gathering
Creation Care
PAGE 3

Outreach Holiday Drives
PAGES 4 & 5

Calendar
PAGE 6

Giving/Birthdays
PAGE 7

Wild Church
PAGE 8

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Vespers

THURSDAYS @7PM ON ZOOM

Thursday Night Vespers continues to explore congregational spiritual practices through scripture, art, personal experiences, and prayer, as we loosely follow the book, [*Practicing Our Faith: a Way of Life for a Searching People*](#), edited by Dorothy C. Bass. Reading the book is not a requirement for participation in the Vesper Zoom conversations. In November we'll consider the Christian practices of healing and dying well. Each week Pastor Nancy selects works of art which allow us to reflect upon the week's topic. The book is available in print, as an e-book, and as an audiobook. Both the audiobook and e-book are available for free from the Rowan County Public Library using either the [Hoopla](#) or [Libby](#) app. To join our weekly Vespers, email the office for an invitation or message us on social media for a Zoom link.

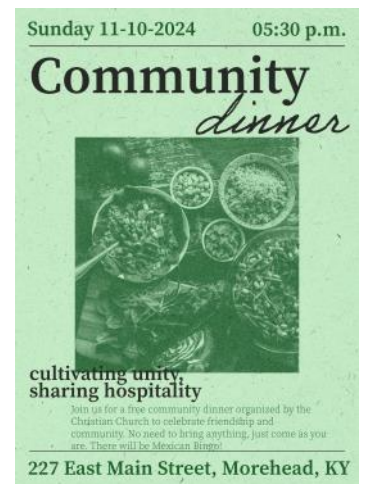


Community Dinner

NOVEMBER 10—5:30PM

Come to a free meal in support of the migrant community in our area on **Sunday, November 10 from 5:30pm at the Morehead First Christian Church.**

This is a community event, sponsored by Morehead Concerned Citizens for Migrants (CCM). At this friendly gathering, we will be serving a home-cooked Mexican dinner and playing Mexican Bingo. Just bring yourself and your friends and fellowship with newcomers to our country.



Fall Into Faith Youth Retreat

NOVEMBER 22-24, 2024

Families with middle and high schoolers! Save the date for this upcoming fall retreat with other Disciples of Christ youth! There will be time to worship, play, serve others, and fall into faith together!

Rev. Michelle Ballard, Associate Minister of Children and Youth for the First Christian Church in Mt. Sterling, invites the FCC Morehead students to go and carpool with their youth group.

Please note that this is an overnight trip, which will begin late on Friday night and end with worship at 9am on Sunday.

Please RSVP by Halloween for this event, so we know how many to expect! Cost covered.

To sign up, click here: [Fall Into Faith Youth Retreat](#).



Elders Meet for Fellowship and Reflection

OCTOBER 13 GATHERING INCLUDES TIME FOR PASTOR APPRECIATION

FCC Elders came together for a potluck dinner and conversation at the home of Sarah Chaney. The Elders surprised Pastor Nancy with an ice cream cake and appreciation gift for her four years of ministry leadership with our congregation. After dinner, Pastor Nancy led the Elders in a time of reflection over the work of the previous year. Discussion questions revolved around our congregation's values; the ministries which are making the most difference in our community; the fears of our congregation; how we are developing more loving, compassionate followers of Jesus; our dreams for the congregation in 5 years; what is holding us back; and what is our next best step as elders. At the end of the evening, the elders imagined ways of expanding these conversations to more people in the congregation.



Creation Care

BOB PRYOR, CREATION CARE TEAM MEMBER

It is almost Thanksgiving but just around the corner is the celebration of the birth of Christ. Many of us are already thinking about what we'll give to Aunt Susie or our best friend. How about also thinking about what we might give to this earth, God's beautiful gift to us all. Christmas is a season of colors: lights, cards, wrapping paper, ribbons, decorations.

Are you aware that most of the wrapping paper we use cannot be recycled and just goes into the trash after it is torn off...destined for the landfill? Are there some alternatives to this scenario that might be more friendly to our God-given earth? Keep reading for some suggestions that might make you laugh, ponder, get creative, have some fun, and... even make a gift to this good earth as they all can be recycled or reused rather than trashed.

- If you buy wrapping paper, try to buy recycled paper
- Reuse wrapping paper or cards saved from last Christmas
- Use some common items that you repurpose: newspapers and/or newsprint, brown paper bags, butcher paper (make a craft project by getting your kids or grandkids or YOU to create pictures or drawings to decorate these common items)
- Wrap a gift in pages of old magazines pieced together in creative ways
- Use Christmas gift bags or baskets that you've received in the past
- Use a scarf that you no longer use or scrap pieces of old shirts or fabric
- Radical!!! Use emptied cat or dog food bags (just think of the excitement someone might have thinking they are receiving a kitten or puppy!!)

Now that you have those creative juices flowing, please share your ideas with us.

The point is: have some fun; be creative; and walk more lightly on our planet.



Upcoming Holiday Outreach Projects

OUTREACH COMMITTEE—RONETTA & JEFF BROWN, CO-CHAIRS



Sharing Our Blessings with Neighbors this Holiday Season

For many of us, the holidays are a warm, joyful time filled with good food and laughter; but for so many families and elderly individuals, this is not the case. Many of these folks struggle year-round to meet their family's most basic needs; so for them, the holidays can be extra stressful and lonely. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, FCC Morehead strives to alleviate some of the worries of the season for the neediest folks in our community. Read on to discover what we do and see how you can help.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Our youth will soon be preparing 10 Thanksgiving baskets for folks who are transitioning through Gateway Homeless Shelter to a first home. Each basket costs approximately \$60 to fill, and includes items for fixing a family Thanksgiving meal, as well as extras that will help with the cleanup afterward. Generous donations from our members and friends make this ministry possible, as we often have folks in the congregation who will sponsor a basket with their \$60 donation.

Families and Children in Rowan County:

Basic Needs

Working with the local school family resource centers, we adopt 10-12 of the neediest families in Rowan County. For the children in each of these families, we provide a new coat or jacket, gloves, hat, a new pair of shoes, pajamas (if requested), one new outfit of clothing, and a package of new underwear and socks.

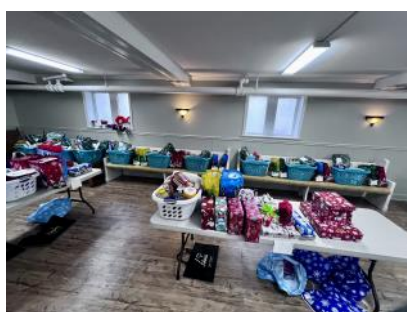
Again, we are able to do this because of the generous donations from our congregation and friends. We typically help 48 - 50 children, and although we shop frugally, we must spend between \$120 and \$150 per child for clothing.

We also provide some much-needed hygiene and cleaning items for each of the families. Many of these items are not covered through WIC or other financial assistance programs, and are quite expensive for families to purchase on their own. This year, we have already been blessed with a donation of ALL the cleaning items needed! Many thanks to Sarah Chaney and Jennifer Chaney Murtaugh for purchasing those items and delivering them to the church!

In addition to clothes for the kids and hygiene/cleaning items, members and friends of our church have purchased food items for these families in the past. This year, in an effort to meet the specific needs of families, we will be asking folks to sign up for and purchase items that the families have indicated they need MOST. Some will need warm blankets for their beds, and others will request gas cards to get where they need to go during the holidays. Still others will need some basic food items.

Folks will have the opportunity to help provide some of these much-needed items through the link to Sign-up Genius here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AAAAE2EAAFE3-52604551-christmas>





Gifts for the Children

Continuing with our help to these neediest families, we also “adopt” the children by providing three Christmas gifts from each child’s wish list. In past holidays, during deliveries to the families, we have been told by the families that these are the only gifts their children will be receiving this Christmas. Bearing that in mind, we ask that folks shop for these kids as they would for the children in their own family. Better to choose only one child and give them three nice gifts, than to choose several children and only get a small gift for each child. We try to imagine the joy and excitement for these kiddos when they open our gifts on Christmas morning!

The list of children and their wishes is still being added, but will be fully updated and ready to use on November 3rd. Sign-up to buy gifts for kids here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AAAAE2EAAFE3-52604688-christmas>

Elderly and Homebound

Last, but definitely not least, FCC reaches out to elderly/homebound individuals for the Christmas season. Christian Social Services chooses 10 of their neediest elderly clients for us to assist with food, warm blankets, reading material, puzzle books, and hygiene and cleaning items. The Chaney and Murtaugh family has taken care of these cleaning items as well, but we will still need to get the hygiene items and will ask folks to donate some of the other things.

We were surprised to hear that a favorite item received by some of the elderly last year was Efferdent! As we all know, self-care items cost a lot these days, and many elderly people live on a very limited income. Things many of us take for granted are considered luxuries to others. Due to generous donations from our church members and friends, we were able to provide not only these much-needed items, but also two \$50 Kroger gift cards to each individual. We gave one gift card at Christmas and another at Valentine’s Day. We were told that some of the elderly shed tears of gratitude when they received these.

Sign up to help our elderly/homebound friends here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AAAAE2EAAFE3-52604476-christmas>

The Bottom Line

Last year, our holiday outreach project cost approximately \$6,900. We could not have done it without the generosity of our church family and friends! We ask that when you consider your greatest blessings this holiday season, as much as is possible, share some of those blessings with our neighbors who are struggling. We hope to help them enjoy Christmas, and we know our gifts go a long way toward that purpose!

You can find all of our current Outreach Holiday Projects by clicking on the links in this article or visiting [signupgenius.com](https://www.signupgenius.com) and searching for our church email address, fccmky@gmail.com.



*Pictures from Christmas 2023

NOVEMBER 2024

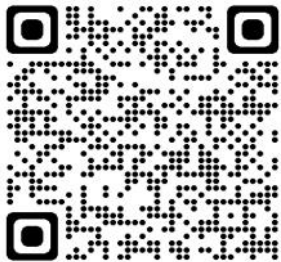
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office closed.	2
3 10:45am Worship	4 6:00 PM Executive Board meeting	5 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	6 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	7 7pm Vespers (Zoom)	8 Office closed.	9
10 10:45am Worship	11	12	13 5pm Outreach committee meeting 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	14	15	16 1 pm Wild Church at Rodburn Hollow Park
17 10:45am Worship	18	19 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	20 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	21 7pm Vespers (Zoom)	22 Office closed.	23
24 10:45am Worship	25 7pm Full Board meeting	26 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	27	28 Thanksgiving Office Closed	29 Office closed.	30
Newsletter articles due.						

GIVING NEWS

TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2024

General gifts and income	\$ 8,305.64
(first four Sundays in September)	
Expenses	\$ 11,515.57

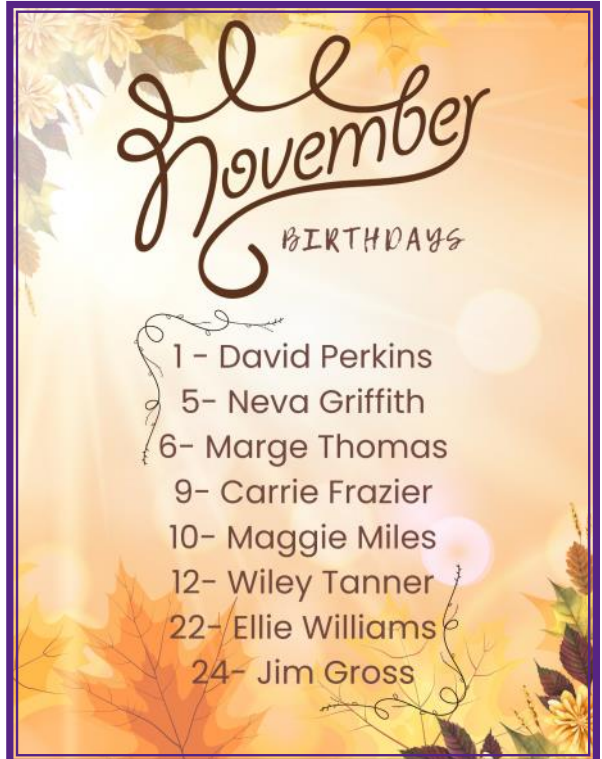


FCC GIVING

WAYS TO GIVE

Visit our webpage fccmorehead.org to give online (through PayPal) or to set up direct debit from your bank account.

Offering boxes are available at both entrances to the sanctuary.



Kroger Community Rewards

To designate FCC as your Kroger Rewards charity, follow this [link](#).

Sign up is easy; follow these simple steps.

1. Sign in to your digital Kroger account.
2. Search for **First Christian Church - Morehead** [here](#).
3. Select **First Christian Church - Morehead** from the list and click "Save."



BE A LITURGIST!

If you would like to help spread God's message during Sunday services, please sign up! Scripts are provided. The sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the stairwell. You can also contact the church office to add your name.

Thanksgiving Offering—November 17 and 24

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses. Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and it makes a difference in the world.



Wild Church Gathering

RODBURN HOLLOW PARK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 @1PM

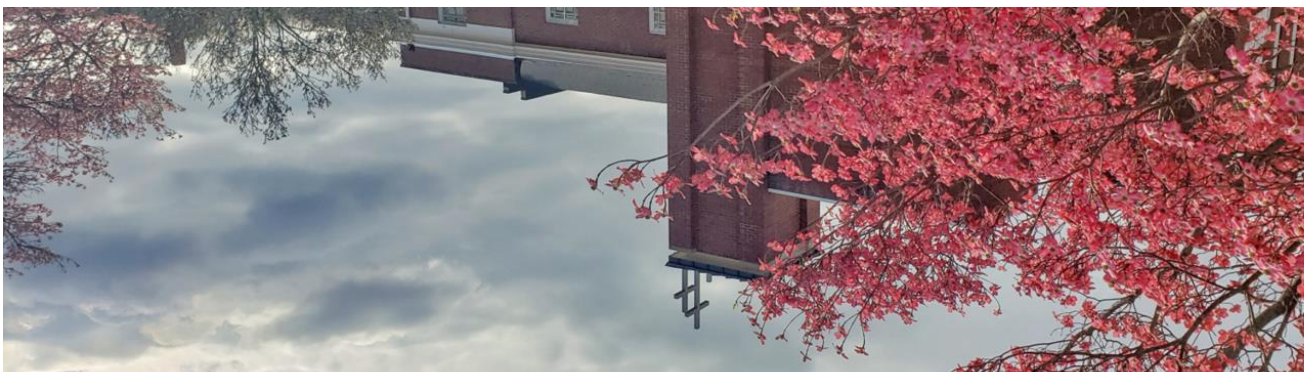
Each Wild Church gathering offers a singular experience of spiritual exploration in the natural setting of Rodburn Hollow Park. We've enjoyed the cooling shade of the forest during the hot days of summer. In September we listened to the sounds of falling rain and contemplated the gifts of water and the realities of extreme weather events elevated by climate change. October brought the vibrant colors of autumn leaves, the quiet sounds of moving water, and the power of wind and storms to down the tallest of trees to our attention.

What will November bring to our Wild Church contemplation? Join us on Saturday, November 16, at 1pm for our next gathering for Wild Church. We meet near the back picnic shelter at Rodburn Hollow Park.

Wild Church is a welcoming gathering for individuals from all spiritual walks of life seeking a closer connection with Creation.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Morehead, KY 40351



Place
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