

VOL. 23 ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2023

THE ECHO

a newsletter of the First Christian Church of Morehead, Kentucky



RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

Bigotry, oppression, and racism break the heart of God. We are all diminished by injustice toward racialized and oppressed peoples. Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is our Mission Fund to dismantle racism and oppression and to share the liberating love of Jesus Christ. Disciples Reconciliation Ministry special offering will be received for the first two Sundays in October.

In March 2022, Disciples' generous giving to Reconciliation Ministry helped fund the Kirkpatrick Lecture Series of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Over 250 people were able to participate in the conference and most received generous support to be in attendance virtually or in-person. Participants gathered for this conference under the theme "Visions of Wholeness: Systemic Racism, Antiracism, and Reconciliation in Our Shared History and Tradition." The presentations and the conversations that ensued during the conference were as challenging and hopeful as the conference's title. We wrestled with the truth of our brokenness and our need for healing of our fractured humanity.

Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our capacity to be re-membered, reconnected, and restored as God's beloved by disrupting racism and oppression. Your generosity

funds grants and education that promote restoration and healing, revealing the children of God. Your financial gifts allow the whole mission and ministry of our Church to realize Visions of Wholeness because you are the beloved that God is waiting for!

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Morehead, KY 40351

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Save the Date!

The Kentucky Disciples
Women's Choral Retreat

Sing into Spring!

Friday, February 23 ~ Sunday, February 25, 2024

First Christian Church
112 East College Street Georgetown, KY 40324

www.ccinky.net The Kentucky Disciples Women's Choral Retreat
(859) 322-5653 – Shari shari.caldarelli@gmail.com

Boat Gunnel Trail Work is Not All About Work

CREATION CARE TEAM CONTINUES RENOVATION



Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

We cleared pathways on our adopted Boat Gunnel trail at nearby Cave Run Lake on September 23, while enjoying time out with discoveries along the trail. Creation Care Team members participating included Lucy and Bob Pryor, Pastor Nancy Gowler, and David Potter.

To find out more about our Green Chalice/Creation Care team and how you can get involved, contact Mark Etherton.



October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering 10:45am Worship	2 Rowan County School's Fall Break through Oct. 6	3 6pm Stewardship Meeting (Zoom) 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	4 MSU Fall Break through Oct. 6 6pm Outreach Com.	5 7pm Vespers (Zoom)	6 Office closed.	7 9am Hike White Sulphur Loop, Bath County
8 Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering 10:45am Worship 2pm 2 nd Sunday Hike	9 Office closed.	10 Gateway Basket items due 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	11 5pm Bells 7pm Choir	12 7pm Vespers (Zoom)	13 Office closed.	14
15 10:45am Worship	16	17 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	18 5pm Bells 7pm Choir	19 7pm Vespers (Zoom)	10 Office closed.	21
22 10:45am Worship	23 7pm Full Board Meeting	24 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)	25 5pm Bells 7pm Choir	26 7pm Vespers (Zoom)	27 Office closed.	28
29 10:45 Worship Newsletter articles due for November issue	30	31 All Hallow's Eve 10am Cane Ridge Mtg House Closing Day Service 7pm Women of the Bible (Zoom)				



Outreach Update

RONETTA AND JEFF BROWN

Thanks SO MUCH to everyone who helped with the Fall Yard Sale! We were able to raise \$1,456.50 for the Snack Backpack Program. This will cover approximately three months of healthy weekend snacks for needy children in Rowan County.



The Outreach Committee will meet Wednesday, October 4th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

October is the last month for Gateway Baskets this year. Items are due by October 10th.

Sunday, October 1st is the last day to donate children's underwear for Rowan county Schools. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this!

Once again this year, Mary Claire Williams and the FCC youth will be shopping for and assembling 10 Thanksgiving baskets for Gateway Homeless Shelter. Each basket costs approximately \$60. If you would like to help offset these costs, please designate "Thanksgiving Baskets" on the memo line of your checks.



MSU Theta Chi Fraternity helps move furniture for yard sale.
Photo by Sarah Chaney

October Hikes

SPONSORED BY CAVE LAKE CHAPTER, SHELTOWEE TRACE ASSOCIATION

2nd Sunday Hike—October 8

Who: Everyone—Family Friendly

What: +/- 2 mile hike

When: 2:00pm

Why: Exercise, enjoy the beauty of creation

Where: Meet at MSU Eagle Lake Dam

Time Length: @2 hours

Park either on the drive up or in the rec center lot. We'll hike around the lake using the side trail, Hop's Jaunt to Fern Valley trail and then back around on the north side of the lake. Hopefully we'll have some fall colors to appreciate. This is roughly 2 miles of mostly moderate hiking (a couple short steep climbs). Figure 1.5-2 hours on this very family friendly trail.

White Sulphur Loop Hike—October 7

Who: Everyone

What: +/- 6 mile hike

When: 9:00am

Why: Exercise, enjoy the beauty of creation

Where: White Sulphur Horse Camp in Bath County

Time Length: 3-4 hours, with a snack break halfway

Leader: Brian Buelterman ([email](#) for directions)

We will travel across beautiful hillside trail to the top of the ridge, and glimpse a few vistas through the trees, including a nice view of the lake. The hike covers three miles of the Shelto wee, with Cave Run Trail I I5 completing the rest of the 6-mile loop.

TREASURER'S REPORT—SEPTEMBER

General gifts and income	\$ 8,330.85
Yard Sale	\$1,456.50
Kroger Rewards	\$ 151.24
Expenses	\$ 10,697.13

Sound the Trumpets:

Unmuted Ministry:

Uncommon Love;

United Service

Numbers 10:4-7

RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

SPECIAL OFFERING

SEPTEMBER 24th - OCTOBER 1st



www.reconciliationministry.org

Cane Ridge Meeting House

Closing Day Service

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

10:00 am

1655 Cane Ridge Road, Paris, KY 40362

curator@caneridge.org

Kroger Community Rewards



SUPPORT FCC SNACK BACKPACK PROGRAM

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."



**OUR
HELPERS
WORK ON
PROBLEMS
BIG &
SMALL**

Thank you,
Brent
Rogers!!!

Notes from Pastor Nancy

REV. NANCY GOWLER



The resurrection of Jesus was simply God's unwillingness to take our 'no' for an answer...the good news of the resurrection of Jesus is not that we shall die and go home to be with him, but that he has risen and comes home with us, bringing all his hungry, naked, thirsty, sick prisoner brothers with him.

—Clarence Jordan, co-founder of Koinonia Farm

Brian McLaren tells the story of working at a church summer youth camp, when one morning he was the keynote speaker for the group. He started by asking the youth, “When you’re hanging out with your friends at school, what are the biggest problems in the world that you guys talk about?” The answers included nuclear war, world hunger, racism, World War III, pollution, extinction of species...” And soon he filled a large piece of poster paper with the biggest issues the kids were worried about and he hung it up on the wall. Then he followed that question up, asking, “At your church, when people are talking about big issues and big problems in the church, what are the issues you all talk about at your church?” Again, the answers poured out—speaking in tongues, women preachers, bible translations, can you wear jeans in church?, can you have guitars or drums in church? McLaren filled up a second sheet of poster paper with their answers and placed it on the wall next to the first.

As McLaren and the kids looked at the two lists, it began to dawn on them—there was nothing in common between the two lists. McLaren says he had a sinking feeling that if he did his job well as a youth pastor, what he would be doing is getting those youth to focus more on the list of issues talked about in the church and less on the big issues facing the world. Years later in 2007 McLaren published his book, *Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope*. In that book he explores two questions: 1. What are the biggest problems in the world? and 2. What does Jesus have to say about these global problems?

Much of the conversations about church these days focuses around issues of survival, of self-preservation. Is it any wonder then that folks look elsewhere for wisdom, for good news? Can you imagine a church community asking the big questions of the world and discerning together what is a faithful response for our time? What would it look like for a church to commit itself to being what Clarence Jordan called, “a demonstration plot for the Kingdom of God”?

It is becoming painfully clear that one of those global issues is climate change and the urgent need to address the consequences of our longtime reliance upon fossil fuels. The church must be thinking theologically about climate change and acting in ways that promote restoration and justice. For our final Sunday worship in Creation Time, we gathered in Morehead’s City Park by Triplett Creek and celebrated River Sunday. We debuted our new participation with the One



Home One Future initiative, an interfaith environmental “campaign that educates, activates, and supports clergy, congregants, youth, and all spiritual people in meaningful and just solutions locally, regionally, and nationally in ways that are accessible and positive.”

Thanks to the vision of our Green Chalice/Creation Care team, we are exploring what it means to think theologically about environmental issues and put that discernment into action locally. They are leading with faith, a reflection of our closing words of hope litany for the Season of Creation: “...we celebrate God’s goodness at the heart of humanity planted more deeply than all that is wrong.”

Pastor Nancy

Members of the Green Chalice/Creation Care team on River Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023.

History Corner

HISTORY OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF MOREHEAD — ANNE BUCKNER

FCC Aids in Refugee Family Resettlement

In 1994 First Christian Church led by Dan Thomas' Young Adult Sunday School class assisted a refugee Bosnian family as they adjusted to their new life in Morehead. Mulaga and Bogdanka Kurahovic left their homeland because of religious persecution. At the time marriages of individuals from different religious traditions were under attack by the government in Bosnia, what had once been Yugoslavia, and Mulaga was Muslim while Bogdanka, was a Greek Orthodox Christian.

The church helped secure and furnish an apartment for the family at Triplett View. FCC members helped the family settle into life in Eastern Kentucky, especially with the practical concerns of obtaining identification, employment, enrolling the girls into preschool at Rodburn Elementary, coordinating ESL lessons, and much more. Anne Scott and Carolyn Franzini also assisted with the relocation.



1994 photo of the Kurahovic family. From the left: Jasna, Bogdanka, Mulaga, and Melita. Photo by Stephanie Davis, *The Morehead News*.

The Kurahovics, with daughters Jasna, 4, and Melita, 5, arrived in Morehead in March 1994 courtesy of Church World Service, a Disciples ministry partner, which reached out to First Christian Church for assistance in refugee resettlement. FCC's minister, Rev. Harold Tackett, met them at the airport upon arrival in Lexington. He tearfully told the story of hearing the request of Mulaga upon landing: "Family of four please," he said in broken English. The family had lived apart in separate camps and only brought one suitcase each.

Mulaga, who worked in Bosnia as a supervisor at a hydroelectric power plant, soon found work at the Morehead Housing Authority. Bogdanka enrolled at MSU in the fall of 1994.

Working with refugee resettlement was a natural extension of FCC's mission statement at the time: *"We attempt to practice a Christianity that is true to the gospel yet responsive to today's world with its problems, challenges and possibilities."*

Recently Anne Buckner reached out to Bogdanka by email to check in with the family, who now live in New Mexico. Bogdanka responded with the following update.

Here is our current situation. I currently work as a senior auditor for the state of New Mexico. In October 2019, I was diagnosed with H2 triple positive breast cancer. I had the surgery, radiation, and 15 months of chemotherapy treatments. Right now I am on hormone treatments for the next three months.

Mulaga currently works as a Senior Process Improvement engineer at a factory in New Mexico. Melita is a Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). Jasna has a Master of Human Resources Management and works at a dental office.

We are so thankful for all the help of your church and the people in Morehead.

You can learn more about Disciples' Refugee & Immigration Ministries through the Disciples Home Missions' website, www.discipleshomeissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries.



To learn more about Church World Service, visit cwsglobal.org

Women's Fall Retreat

OCTOBER 21-22



Kentucky Disciples Women's Fall Retreat October 21-22, 2023 at Barren River Lake State Park - 1149 State Park Road, Lucas, KY 42156. Registration begins at 9:00am, followed by worship at 10:00am.

If you can, plan to come to the park Friday night to fellowship, enjoy the beauty of the park, and get rested for Saturday morning.

You can make your reservation right now; cabins and hotel rooms are blocked. Registration is \$35. Bring your neighbor, sister, mother, aunt along...we will even have some spouses; all are welcome!

Call (270) 646-2151 to make your lodging reservations. Retreat registration forms can be downloaded from the CCK website at www.ccinky.net/ministries/disciples-women.

Questions? Contact Director of Women's Ministries, Marsha Thornton, Jr. at marsha@ccinky.net.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
227 East Main Street
Morehead, KY 40351



Place
Stamp
Here

