

THE ECHO

a newsletter of the First Christian Church of Morehead, Kentucky

President's column

MARY CLAIRE WILLIAMS



Hello Church Family,

September brought a wonderful opportunity for connection and fellowship. The outdoor worship at the park was a delightful day with a meaningful service. It was so nice to be in nature with our church family. The presentation of bibles to the youth of the church was a special time (see page 4). Thank you to Pastor Nancy and all who contributed to the service.

In October, we have more plans for fellowship, and I hope you can join some (or all) of the opportunities. On Friday, September 30th (*date change due to weather*), we hope to see you at OcTUBAfest at 7:30 p.m. All who are interested can meet at the entertainment district. On Sunday, October 9th from 2:00-4:00 p.m all youth and former youth are invited to attend a reunion. This will be on the top floor of the Sawstone Brewery, and food and drinks will be provided. For the October 23rd service, we will be honoring the 135th Anniversary Celebration along with Morehead State University's centennial celebration.

As the seasons begin to change, I hope you can find time to rest, reflect, and give yourself some grace. I love this poem by Wendell Berry.

Grace by Wendell Berry

The woods is shining this morning. Red, gold and green, the leaves lie on the ground, or fall, or hang full of light in the air still.

Perfect in its rise and in its fall, it takes the place it has been coming to forever. It has not hastened here, or lagged. See how surely it has sought itself, its roots passing lordly through the earth. See how without confusion it is all that it is, and how flawless its grace is. Running or walking, the way is the same. Be still. Be still. "He moves your bones, and the way is clear."

With Love,

Mary Claire Williams

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Outreach Updates

RONETTA & JEFF BROWN

Gateway Housewarming Baskets

October is our last month this year for baskets. Please bring your items to the Fellowship Hall by the 10th of October.

Partnership with Rowan County Schools Family Resource/Youth Service

October Helping with Hoodies

Students at RCMS and RCHS often do not have warm jackets and coats to wear. They will wear hoodies when those are available. Last year, we donated several zip hoodies, and this year, the need is for **pullover hoodies in all sizes** for boys and girls. We have created a link to sign up for sizes, as this helps ensure we get a variety of sizes to meet the variety of needs. We will collect these hoodies in a bin near the basement floor entrance during the entire month of October. Follow the link to sign up for sizes. [Hoodie Sign Up](#)

Feminine Hygiene Products

There is a continuing need for all types of feminine hygiene products in the schools. We have also placed a bin for these just inside the door on the basement floor. Feel free to give whatever you can for this. We will keep the bin out during the school year, and I will deliver the items when the bin is full.

Snack Backpacks Continue

FCC continues to provide healthful weekend snacks for needy students. These snacks consist of two fresh fruits, raisins, and 100% fruit juice boxes per student, pending item availability. We serve approximately 70 students in two elementary schools. Please remember that your Kroger Rewards helps supplement this program.

*The Outreach Committee met on Wednesday, September 28th. Look for an update from our meeting and information about our upcoming Holiday Outreach in next month's ECHO. Next meeting is **November 2, 6:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We always welcome new committee members and we'd love to have you join us!*

Deacons' Corner

SUSAN WHIDDEN

As the new Chair of the Deacons, I am still learning the ropes of this role, so I appreciate your patience as I figure things out. I decided to start out by looking more into the function and history of the position of Deaconship. While looking for an apt description of the Deacon's role in the church, I found this wonderful explanation from the blog of Michael Karunas, the Senior Minister from Central Christian Church in Decatur, Illinois: "In the Greek language of the New Testament, the word "deacon" (*diakonia*) means "to serve." While the Apostles tended to the "spiritual food" (the Word of God), making sure the study of the Word was not neglected, the Deacons were tasked with making sure that all were fed with physical (literal) food; that none were neglected nor excluded. Where we see the distinctive role of Deacon best in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) today is during communion. Elders occupy the role of Apostle, speaking words about the spiritual significance of the bread we eat. And Deacons make sure that all are fed. They distribute the literal bread among the people." While the pandemic has changed the procedure of serving communion hand to hand, Deacons remember, when you sign up to be a greeter, that you are not only there to welcome worshippers into the sanctuary, but that by making sure that all are fed the actual elements of communion, you are still performing a vital part of our church service. Thank you.



October 2022

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Reconciliation Min. & Morehead Ministerial Assoc. Benevolence Fund Offerings 10:45 Worship 12:00pm Burning of the Prayer Slips	3 Rowan County Schools Fall Break through Oct. 7	4 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	5 5:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	6 MSU Fall Break through Oct. 7 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom	7 Office closed.	8
9 10:45am Worship. 12:15pm Stewardship Mtg. 2-4:00-pm Youth Reunion, Sawstone	10 Office closed. Gateways Basket items due. Indigenous Peoples Columbus Day.	11 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	12 5:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	13 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom	14 Office closed.	15 Disciple Women's Fall Retreat (Firewood Ministry (tentative or 22nd)
16 10:45am Worship 12:15pm Elders' Meeting	17 	18 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	19 5:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	20 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom	21 MSU Homecoming Weekend. Office closed.	22 MSU Homecoming Weekend
23 135th Anniversary Celebration & Reception 10:45am	24 7:00pm Full Board Meeting	25 7:00pm Women of the Bible via Zoom	26 5:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir	27 7:00pm Vespers via Zoom	28 Office closed.	29
30 10:45am Worship Silent Auction through Nov. 6. 5th Sunday Offering	31 6:00-8:00pm Trunk or Treat in First Baptist Church Parking Lot					



MSU Choir Interns

BIOS AND INTERESTS

Mason Pack is a Vocal Music Education major from Louisa, Kentucky. When he is not singing, he enjoys shopping, playing video games, and playing with his three dogs.

Maura McCoy, soprano, is from Pikeville, KY and is a Vocal Music Education major, graduating in fall 2023. Her goal is to teach elementary music or choir and have a private vocal studio.



Mason



Maura



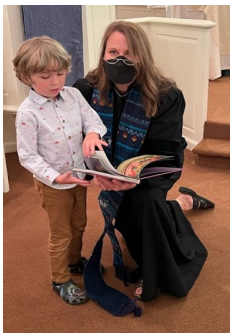
Katie

Maura’s hobbies include painting, drawing, playing on Nintendo Switch, and hanging out with friends.

Katie Webb, soprano, is a Vocal Music Performance major, originally from Mt. Sterling, but living in Berea. She plans to graduate in 2023. She’d like to attend grad school and study musical theatre. She has 2 dogs and many, many cats at home which she misses very much.

Bible Presentations

SEPTEMBER 2022



Miles Paschall



Ellie Williams



Scarlett Paschall



Keyairah Bailey



Alana Sholar

Chalice Prayer Ministry

BURNING OF THE PRAYER SLIPS—OCTOBER 2

Members of the Chalice Prayer Ministry will be gathering after worship service to offer our prayers up to God at the labyrinth cairn. Members of the Chalice Prayer Ministry pray for our prayer requests and gather quarterly to burn the prayer slips. Prayer requests may be placed in the sanctuary Stone Chalice or contact the office. Contact chair Maggie Miles for information.



Donations of candy are welcomed. Get your decorations ready. See you at FBC for a spooky good time.

Special Offerings

RECONCILIATION MINISTRY OFFERING

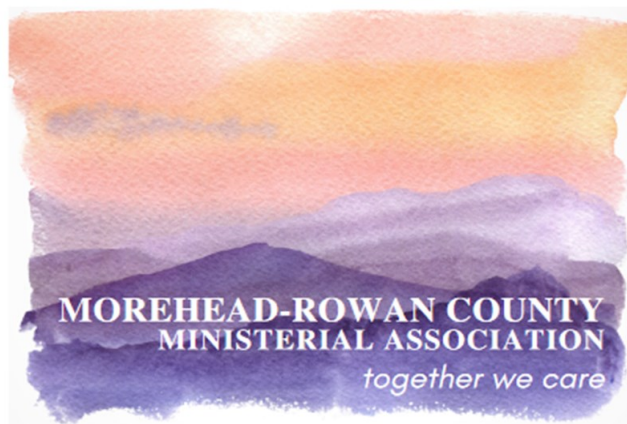
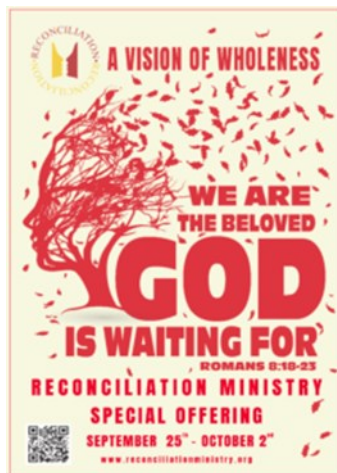
SEPTEMBER 25TH-OCTOBER 2ND

2022 Special Day Offering

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering will be received in congregations this year on two successive Sundays. Our theme is "We are the Beloved God is Waiting For." Now is the time for our Church to strengthen its commitment to actively seek God's justice.

Reconciliation Ministry leads the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism work of Disciples.

Learn more at reconciliationministry.org



Benevolence Fund Special Offering
October 2, 2022

The fund assists folks who get stuck traveling through Morehead. Last year alone we were able to help almost 30 people with motel stays, food, and gasoline. When you give to this fund, you help us fill a unique ministry need in our community and extend sacred hospitality to folks in distress.

Giving News

TREASURER'S REPORT AUGUST

General gifts and Income: \$10,117.33
includes Kroger Community
Rewards \$176.01

Expenses: \$11,834.82

MACK FUND

For the new Sign Base
Brent Rogers

THANK YOU

To Friends at FCC in Morehead, Kentucky.
Thanks for all your prayers and concern around the pausing of Mark's mom. Your love and prayers make us strong.
Peace,

-Mark & Lisa Caldwell-Reiss, Berea KY FCC

Dear Friends,
What a wonderful things you have done! Your 5th Sunday donation of \$120 has been gratefully received at Christian Care Communities. You help provide basic nutritional, medical and spiritual care for our older adults. In His Service,
-James W. Patton, VP-Mission Advancement

YOUTH REUNION

OCTOBER 9 FROM 2-4PM

All current and former youth are invited to attend a youth reunion at Sawstone Brewery (2nd floor). Food will be provided, and we hope to see you there!
Contact Mary Claire for more information.



October 25, 2015—Youth visit Cane Ridge

Notes from Pastor Nancy

REV. NANCY GOWLER



The founding of Morehead Normal School in 1887 grew out of the Rowan County feud. The State applied militia force to settle the problem, the Baptists held evangelistic meetings, and the Disciples of Christ established a school and a church.

—Morris L. Norfleet, *Morehead State University Founding Years*

It reveals much about the Disciples' spirit that our response to the chaos from a multi-year violent feud which left more than 21 people dead, destroyed thousands of dollars of property, and terrorized local residents of Rowan County was to send missionaries to found a school and organize a local church. William T. Withers, a prominent Lexington horse breeder, ex-Confederate colonel, and a former slave owner, underwrote the missionary endeavor. A young college graduate Frank Button and his mother Phoebe Button accepted the call from the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention to come to Morehead. Their work was to establish a school in Morehead and to provide pastoral leadership for the Christian congregation.

The early days were difficult. Later Withers' daughter, Ida W. Harrison related the story that upon his arrival, Button was visiting with a man in town, "and while they were talking, firing began on the street, and they had to take refuge behind an old stone chimney, until the fusillade was over." The school attracted early opposition from the community, perhaps a distrust of outsiders played a role. In a letter to Button in October 1887, Withers saw the controversy as an opportunity, writing, "Am not surprised at the opposition to your school. It was only what might have been expected—this very opposition will no doubt result in bringing your school before the public & that's what you want."

Education and faith were bound together in those early years. In the same October letter, Withers expresses his pleasure in hearing of the progress in forming a congregation in Morehead and informs Button that a "nice plated communion service" was being sent from the deacons of the Main Street Christian Church in Lexington for use by the new Morehead congregation. The church, alongside Baptist, Presbyterians, and Methodists soon held its gatherings in the newly erected Union Church building, constructed in 1888 on the site which our church facilities now stand.

Disciples' influence continued in Morehead as the Kentucky Christian Missionary Society oversaw the mission of the Normal School for thirteen years, after which control of the school was transferred to the national Christian Women's Board of Missions. The work of the school fit in with the larger mission of the Women's Board of Missions, whose work encompassed educational and missional projects internationally and in the United States.

Roy Roberson, minister of FCC Morehead from 1970 to 1984, speaking at the centennial celebration of Morehead State University, reflected on what he called the religious spirit of the time as a reaction to the social upheavals of the era which led to Frank Button's move to Morehead said, "...this was an explosion that led to a birth of new religious thinking that combine religion with reason, faith with purpose, intellect with a desire to build a better world, the ability to think and apply that thinking to a faith perspective that would do something in the lives of others."

As we celebrate our 135th year as a congregation, once again we find ourselves in a time of uncertainty and upheaval. Rather than be reactionary, may we instead be moved to commit ourselves to a missional vision which faces the future with hope and steely determination. Let this be a time of celebration, a moment to look back, and an opportunity for a reclaiming of our congregational heritage, this rich legacy of faith and learning with which we have been entrusted.



Pastor Nancy

History Corner

ANNE BUCKNER

Morehead Normal School and Moonlight Schools 1910-1922

A Continuing Look Back at MSU Beginnings

(excerpt from [*A Light to The Mountains*, by Donald F. Flatt, pp22-24](#))

Students of Morehead Normal School were children of farmers, country preachers, rural school teachers, small town merchants, and lawyers. Their parents' definition of education often included the mere learning of the three R's. Various home situations, such as major family illnesses or being needed for work on the farm, prevented a majority of the students from completing their educational plans. While many students attended during the twenty-two years the school was operated by the Christian Women's Board of Missions, only 128 graduated. The year 1910 had the largest number of graduates to that date—sixteen, but the school averaged only five graduates per year between 1910 and 1922.

The institution continued to make a determined effort to change the image of the town of Morehead. A publication of the Normal School in 1908 went to extremes by making the community sound utopian:

Nestling in a beautiful basin, formed by the valleys of the Triplett and Dry Fork conjoining, surrounded by emerald mountains, lies the little town of Morehead. Serene and peaceful are the beautiful views of the valley, from surrounding heights. No scene could be more peaceful, more restful than the valley in which Morehead is located. Nothing more charming than the sunshine as it chases the shadows across the face of the mountains which surround it. Here can be heard the sweet notes of the Kentucky Cardinal. Here can be heard the dulcet strains of the mocking bird, and his worthy rival, the brown thrasher. The morning carol and the evening vespers of the birds—the music of the waters—true, pure, sweet, holy, is solace to the tired soul and strength to the weary body.

In spite of this idealistic description, a number of serious concerns arose at the beginning of the 1910-11 school year. Rowan County built its first public high school that year, as well as two new elementary schools. There was obviously less need for the Morehead Normal School in both elementary and secondary education. The academy, or high school, enrollment dropped to twenty-seven by 1910, in anticipation of the opening of the new school. In 1911 Dr. Frank Button moved from Morehead to Versailles to serve as supervisor of rural schools in Kentucky under the sponsorship of the Rockefeller Foundation.

At this time, one of the school's graduates and teachers initiated a movement which would bring her international renown. Cora Wilson Stewart, whose devotion to her Alma Mater never faltered, began a program in the fall of 1911 to enable every illiterate person in Rowan County to read and write; 25 percent of its adult population was illiterate. She was enthusiastically assisted by the unpaid services of fifty other teachers, most of whom were also Morehead Normal School graduates. These "Moonlight Schools," as they were to be known, had almost fairy-tale success during the three subsequent autumns.

After being elected superintendent of Rowan County schools in 1901 and re-elected eight years later, Stewart became the first woman president of the Kentucky Education Association in 1911. That same year she launched an experimental adult education program to combat illiteracy in Rowan County. The Moonlight School met at nights because the majority of its students were employed during the day. Armed with both the unanimous support of faculty who performed this important community service without pay and with special reading books that Stewart developed for adult learners, the program enjoyed spectacular success.



Cora Wilson Stewart, founder of the "Moonlight Schools" in 1911.

Kentucky Regional Christian Church News

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN KENTUCKY

Disciples Women

Women's Fall Retreat

Keynoter, Rev. Emily Askew

October 15-16, 2022

Barren River State Park, Kentucky

\$35 registration fee

[Women's Fall Retreat Registration Form](#)



Regional Assembly

November 3-5, 2022

Georgetown, Kentucky

*A feast of workshops, fellowship,
worship, and prayer for Kentucky*

Disciples and congregational leaders.

[Register for Regional Assembly](#)



The Welcome Table

a reunion of God's beloved community

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 13-Mary Claire Williams
- 13-Stacy Baker
- 17-Jean Lamer
- 18-Makayla Reynolds
- 19-Fran Helphinstine
- 24-Chas Jenkins
- 25-Jennifer Chaney Murtaugh
- 27- Tim Murtaugh
- 28-Jeff Brown
- 29- Ritta Abell

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