



# First Christian Church

## Church Life



November/December 2020

Volume 72—Issue 6

### CWF NOEL MARKET

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The CWF is preparing for its annual Noel Market to be held November 7, 8 a.m. to noon outside in the parking lot behind the church. This year's Market will be modified, having no baked food items to sell, and no

soup and cornbread luncheon because of COVID-19.

The CWF is also selling the Stained Glass Window notecards with envelopes, 8 for \$10, and antique quilt raffle tickets. The quilt was crafted in the 1940's and has a scalloped border. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. To purchase tickets please contact any CWF member, or Leah Hart at 270-293-1213 or [leahhart54@hotmail.com](mailto:leahhart54@hotmail.com), or tickets can be purchased at the Noel Market.

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# Pastor's Article



Dear Church Family and Friends,

It's 5 AM on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020, here in Murray, KY. Like so many others, I could not sleep last night. As I sit here in the quiet of the morning and do my devotions, I enter into the uncertainty of this new day of life God has given us. I wonder how our beloved organist Donnie Hendrix is doing as he lies in his hospital room on oxygen, fighting with every ounce of his being to defeat Covid-19 that took him with such force last week. I light a candle for him and offer up another fervent prayer for this gentle giant of a man we all love so much and whose music, including during this time of pandemic, has created a sacred space for us. I light another candle for the Dycus family as they have entered into quarantine following the diagnosis of their grandson Brenton with Covid-19. He, too, is struggling. I thank God for all the amazing ministry that Mark as our music director and Nancy as our children's director have done over the years and pray they might be spared this virus. I lift up a prayer of thanksgiving for our faithful church member Vicky Holton, who is now a Covid-19 survivor. That thanksgiving is so heartfelt, knowing that not all make it. My own sister-in-law Eileen is one of those who no longer walks on earth with us.

In the uncertainty of this morning, I review the last seven months in the life of our church and am proud of how we have stayed together as a community through outdoor worship, Zoom gatherings, increased communication through emails and newsletters, Facebook, and lots of outreach to those in need. I am filled with gratitude by the hard work and wisdom of our Church Buildings Reopening Committee and how they have stood strong in spite of all the peer pressure coming from other churches who have reopened their sanctuaries to in-person worship even, and astonishingly, when we were in an 'orange zone' and are now in a dangerous 'red zone'. I know that some may question the decisions that our church has made, thinking that we are overly cautious and should place faith above fear. I, however, sincerely believe that in years to come, when a future generation looks back on this period in our church's history and evaluates us, they will commend us for putting Jesus' great commandment into practice of loving neighbor as self as we did everything we could to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 in our church buildings. And that, in my view, is not being fearful, but it is being faithful! So I commend you all for doing this difficult thing right now as we wake up each day to uncertainty and sit in the uncomfortable state of unknowing. I commend all the staff members of FCC for hanging in there during this most challenging time. Thank you Debbie, Aimee, Mark, Nancy, Donnie, Judy, Matthew, Elena, and Allison for your creativity, your compassion, your dedication. You all have gone far beyond the call of duty. And thank you to each and every one of you in the congregation who have continued to love and support this church, even though we are not meeting in our beautiful sanctuary and doing many of the things we used to do. We will see this through together!

As Debbie Batteiger and I work on the November / December issue of *Church Life*, I sit in the uncertainty of not knowing what we can plan for the months of November and December in our church. Since I've been here our schedule has been packed with Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas activities. Yet, aside from Zoom gatherings for children, youth, and adults, we presently do not know what we can safely schedule. When the Church Buildings Reopening Committee met last Sunday they determined that we will make weekly (and sometimes daily) decisions about how to proceed based on the zone our county is designated as by the KY Dept of Public Health (the same map the schools use to make their decisions). Please carefully read the letter that they have included in *Church Life*. Since we can't do longer term planning right now, it is especially important for you to read the weekly emails we send out (if you are receiving *Church Life* but are not on our weekly email list and would like to be, please email the church at [fccmurray@gmail.com](mailto:fccmurray@gmail.com) and we will get you on it). We'll be letting you know week by week what the church will offer. On Sunday mornings when the temperature dips below 45 degrees or it is raining, we will be meeting instead for worship on Zoom at 10 AM. We will let you know by 8 AM on Sunday mornings whether it will be outdoors or Zoom. We will email the Zoom link to you in the Tuesday email so that you will know how to join. I encourage those of you who are on Facebook also to check the FCC Church Facebook page. Debbie additionally posts on our church's Instagram and Twitter pages.

I also woke up today, as I'm sure many of you did, to uncertainty regarding what will happen on this Election Day and the days following. What will our nation look like tomorrow? Most people have been living in a state of heightened anxiety. Some have stockpiled food and water and even guns. People have rallied behind their political team to the extent that they see those who do not vote for their candidate as the "enemy." This is absolutely heartbreaking!

As I have been reflecting on this in the early hours of this morning, I realize that the greatest gift that I have received from my years as an ordained minister is the privilege of ministering to and with people who are affiliated with many different political parties: the red team, the blue team, the green team, and a number of independents (not sure what color you are!). Accepting the sacred calling of ministering to people of differing political persuasions has made me so much more compassionate as I have learned to try to widen my lens and understand things from so many different perspectives. I am grateful for the opening of my heart and mind as I have become more nuanced in my thinking and caring in my feelings because of this.

Some of the most powerful and sacred moments in our worship together have been when we have had a Republican elder and a Democratic elder presiding together at the communion table, with the communion elements being reverently and lovingly passed out by deacons who also are from different political parties. When the communion is distributed, no one is thinking about whether that person is a member of the red team or the blue team. Rather we experience ourselves and each other as being part of God's team, as brothers and sisters in Christ, royal beloved children of God, members of God's family whose mission it is to love God, love neighbor, and love self as we carry out into the community the sacred mandate of building God's Kingdom on earth.

I know that when we wake up tomorrow morning there will be unrest no matter who is projected to win the presidential race (and hopefully by the time you are reading this we will know who that is) or who the down ticket candidates are. We will have plunged from the uncertainty of today into the uncertainty of tomorrow. Yet, in all of this, one thing remains constant and sure: God's love for us and God's eternal presence in our lives. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that "Jesus Christ is the **same yesterday and today and forever.**" We worship a God whose love will never let us go!

I encourage each of you during this time of great uncertainty and unrest in the life of our nation to ground yourself more firmly in God's unfailing love, through faith in Jesus Christ, with the help of the Holy Spirit. By anchoring yourself in God, you will be able to see more clearly and reach out to others with greater compassion across the great divides and divisions in our life as you seek to manifest the love and mind of Christ in what you say and do. On this Election Day when the votes cast by our nation are counted, I leave with you this challenge given by the Apostle Paul to the fledgling church in Philippi during a very difficult time in their history: "***If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind ...<sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.***" (Philippians 1: 1-2,13)

In Christian Love and Service,

Pastor Ruth

# From the Church Buildings Reopening Committee

Dear Church Family,

The Church Buildings Reopening Committee is dedicated to providing information to keep our faith community informed and healthy.

As you know from the news, our country, state and county are under assault from Covid-19. At one time, not too long ago, we may not have personally known anyone who has this dangerous virus. That can no longer be said.

Our church buildings have been closed since March even when other churches have chosen otherwise. We chose to have outdoor and/or online services. Our Zoom services have worked well. We believe anyone who has been involved with these offerings has been blessed.

Our congregation grounds itself in Jesus' commandment to love neighbor as self by diligently attempting to keep others safe from harm. The committee will carefully review the incidence rate map daily (found on the <http://kycovid19.ky.gov> website) to determine what zone our county falls into. Our church will abide by guidelines for our county.

The Church Buildings Reopening Committee recommends the following for our church related activities (We will notify you of cancelled activities [other than Sunday worship] 2 days in advance. For example: CWF group meetings that occur on Tuesday will be notified on Sunday):

## **RED ZONE (Critical ~ >25+ per 100K):**

- Extreme limiting of in-person activities.
- Outdoor worship at 10 AM in the parking lot when the temperature is higher than 45 degrees Fahrenheit and it is not raining. When weather does not permit our gathering outdoors, we will worship together on Zoom at 10 AM. **The decision will be made by 8 AM that day.**
- No activities at all inside the Church Buildings (no Faith and Food, CWF, Scrapbooking, Youth Group, etc.)
- Children, youth and adults to meet virtually for gatherings via Zoom.

Worship materials, prayer concerns, and announcements to be brought to homebound, those in assisted living facilities, and those not on the internet.

# From the Church Buildings

## Reopening Committee

### **ORANGE ZONE (Accelerated ~ >10-25 per 100K):**

- Outdoor worship at 10 AM in the parking lot when the temperature is higher than 45 degrees Fahrenheit and it is not raining. When weather does not permit this we will worship together on Zoom at 10 AM. The decision will be made by 8 AM that day.
  - Sanctuary to be open an hour or two a week for people to enjoy a time of prayer and reflection in the beauty of this sacred space.
  - Groups of 10 or less may meet (socially distanced and with masks) in Church Buildings. Youth Group may meet. Children to continue to meet via Zoom. Wednesday Night 'Virtual' Live and other offerings will continue via Zoom.
- Worship materials, prayer concerns, and announcements to be brought to homebound, those in assisted living facilities, and those not on the internet.

### **YELLOW ZONE (Community Spread ~ >1-10 per 100K):**

- Resumption of indoor worship (30-minute Simplicity Sunday worship with announcements, joys, concerns, prayer, special music, and communion) with safe practices in place including spacing out in the pews, prefab communion cups, and the wearing of masks. Worship service will be videoed on Facebook Live or put on YouTube. Sermons to be provided via manuscript and on Facebook Live.
  - Continuation of Zoom gatherings for Children, Wednesday Night 'Virtual' Live, and other special studies
  - Groups larger than 10 may begin meeting (as long as there can be proper social distancing and masks are worn). Youth may meet.
- Worship materials, prayer concerns, and announcements to be brought to homebound, those in assisted living facilities, and those not on the internet.

### **GREEN ZONE (On Track ~ < 1 per 100K):**

- The Resumption of full or almost normal activities.
  - Pre-pandemic worship service to resume with choir, message, etc. Worship service to be videoed on Facebook Live or put on YouTube.
  - Resumption of Sunday School, Worship and Wonder, and other gatherings
- Worship materials, prayer concerns, and announcements to be brought to homebound and those in assisted living facilities.

# From the Church Buildings Reopening Committee

## **Protection of Self and Others:**

We all must remain extremely vigilant to protect ourselves and others, wearing masks, remaining socially distant, and recognizing if we have Covid or influenza symptoms we should be tested for Covid and quarantine for 14 days. We should also ask those who have been in close proximity to us for longer than 15 minutes to wait to be tested for Covid 2 – 5 days after the exposure and to quarantine until such time the Covid test comes back negative.

## **Symptoms may go on quietly during the 14 days after exposure or may never emerge.**

This is why it is so important to quarantine. If the person that someone is exposed to, does have Covid, it is important to remain in quarantine for the 14 days even if your test is negative. It seems logical to repeat the test near the end of the 14 day quarantine, but this can be discussed with a health care provider.

**We strongly encourage anyone who is feeling ill or who has been potentially exposed not to attend any Church activities.**

We pray that you all stay safe and healthy. Keep in your prayers all those who are battling the virus.

Yours in Christ,

The Church Buildings Reopening Committee

## **MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**



As our country has been suffering through the COVID-19 pandemic, the church office has been taking precautions to stay safe and provide the same level of service to you, the congregant, as much as we can. As Calloway County has been named a “red zone” for COVID-19, we thought this would be a good time to review the hours of availability of the church office and Debbie Batteiger, director of communications.

Church hours continue to be Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., however, the times in which the office is manned varies. Because of the contagious nature of the virus, please do not come to the church office if you are sick, have had contact with someone with COVID-19 in the prior two weeks, or do not have a mask. If you do need to come to the office, please do so wearing a mask (covering your mouth and nose) and staying a social distance of 6 feet, as recommended by CDC guidelines.

You are welcome to call the church office at 270-753-3824 and leave a message and Debbie will get back to you as soon as she can, typically this will be within 24 hours. You are also welcome to email the church at [fccmurray@gmail.com](mailto:fccmurray@gmail.com). Please only use these two types of communication to get in touch with Debbie. The phone and email are being monitored by Debbie from home at regular intervals and know that she will get back to you as soon as she can. Please do not text her outside of business hours.

The church office hopes to resume regular business as usual once the pandemic has gone, but in the meantime, appreciates your patience in this new normal. Stay safe and healthy!



# Update on Our Members

Dave and Judy Eldredge's daughter, **Kristi**, from Spring, Texas, was married to **Glenn Givens** from Evansville, Indiana on Sept 19, 2020.

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**McKenna Phelps** began working with "Peace of Mind Caregiving," a business that **DeeAnna Natividad Vaughn** has created in September.

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Many thanks to the presenters **Rev. Michael Pickens of New Life Church, Revs. Ronald and Tomeka Hendricks of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, and Rev. Timothy Davis and Mrs. Belinda Davis of Greater Hope Missionary Baptist Church, moderator Rev. Dennis Gray of Second Christian Church in Mayfield, technical support John Hughes, and everyone who attended Oct. 4's Zoom gathering**, during which we had the opportunity to hear presentations from the black faith community leaders of three congregations speak about themselves, their churches, and their view of present events. The goal of this gathering was to begin to build relationships between churches in the hope that, as trust is established, we might begin to have more difficult conversations. Rev. Timothy Davis has already stated that he would be willing to host a discussion group looking at Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow*. We had close to sixty people in attendance from eight congregations. Your being present was an indication that you care about them and the recent racial tension in our nation.

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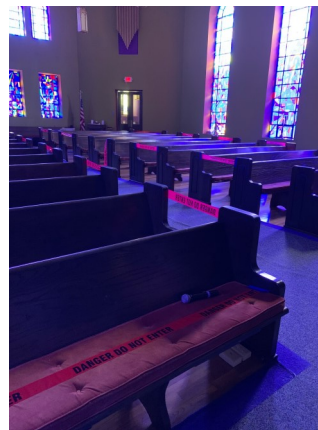
Congratulations to **Lily Sanchez**, who has received a paid, occupational safety and health internship for next summer. The company hires 110 interns each summer - so this is going to be a great learning experience with Eastman Chemical.

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Congratulations to **Alyssa Daugherty** for getting her driver's permit!

# Update on the Church



The Sanctuary will be open for a time of personal prayer and reflection on Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. when it is safe to be open (see information in the Tuesday email).

## Baby Shower by Zoom Honoring Amanda and Payton Pennington

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
**BABY SHOWER BY ZOOM**  
HONORING  
**AMANDA & PAYTON**

AMAZON WALMART

SINCE WE CANNOT GATHER IN PERSON  
WE ASK YOU MAIL OR DROP OFF YOUR GIFTS TO  
THE PARENTS-TO-BE  
THEN WE WILL GATHER FOR A VIRTUAL SHOWER BY ZOOM  
ON **DECEMBER 12, 2020 @ 2:00 PM**  
PLEASE RSVP TO: [GREGANDJULIE2007@YAHOO.COM](mailto:GREGANDJULIE2007@YAHOO.COM)  
TO RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK

**Baby Melody is due on**  
**February | 6 | 2021**

PLEASE DELIVER GIFTS OR CARDS TO:  
805 VINE STREET, MURRAY KY 42071

ONE CLOTH DIAPER FROM EACH PERSON WILL GO A LONG WAY!

## Babies!



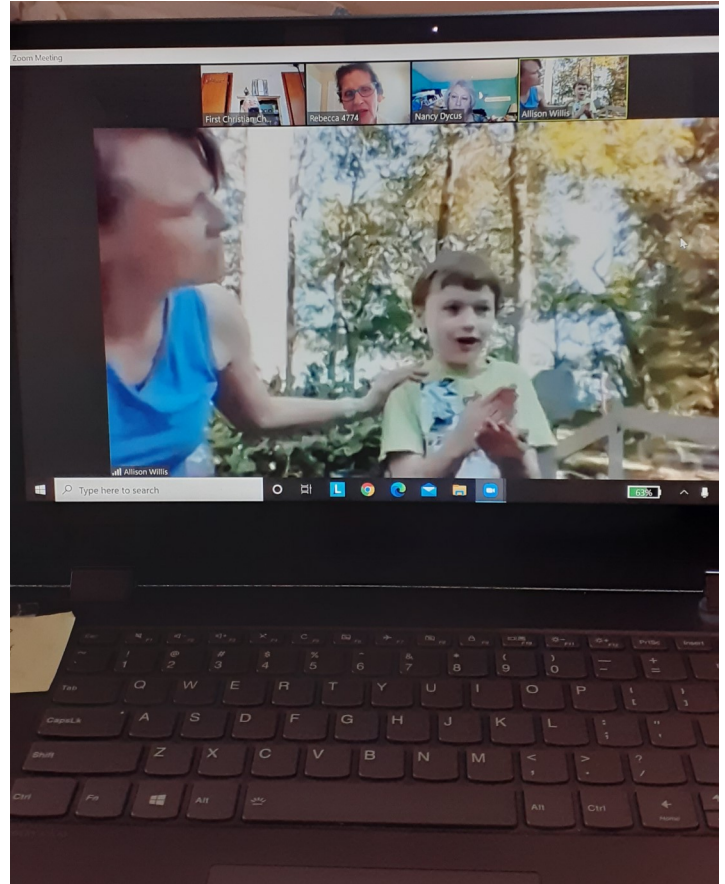
Congratulations to Jean and Don Bennett in the birth of their new grandson **Alexander Jay Fallin-Bennett!** Keisa gave birth to him by C-Section October 6, 2020 at about 2:45. Even though he wasn't due until November 13, he is 5 pounds and 13 oz! Pictured above, Don and Jean Bennett's new grandson, Alex, is happily welcomed by his 'big bro' Simon.

## Baptisms

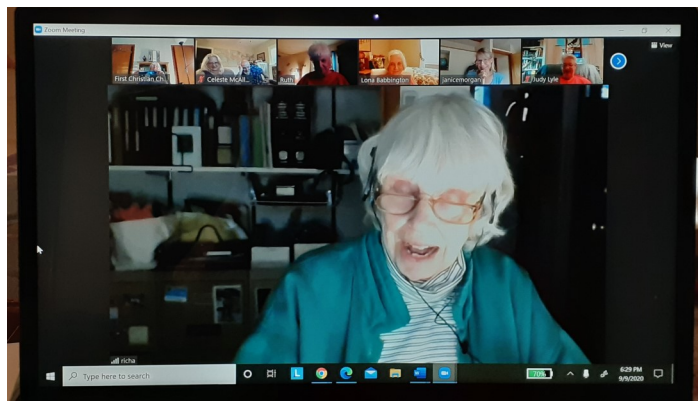


**Finley River Winslow** was baptized in a private family ceremony on Sunday, September 13, 2020. Holding her is her father Nikolas Winslow, who attended FCC while at student at MSU, and now lives in St. Louis.

# The Kids Have Been Zooming!



# The Adults Have Been Zooming!



## Wednesday Night "Virtual" Live Gathering



## Mental Health Awareness Zoom—Oct. 29, 2020

# Condolences

Our love and prayers are with the Ragovin family in the death of Russ' sister, **Eileen Guarino**, on September 1, 2020. She died with Covid-19. Funeral services were held on September 6 on Long Island.

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Our love and prayers are with Rebecca Landolt in the death of her cousin, **Gerald Schultz**, on September 6, 2020, at Mercy Lourdes Hospital in Paducah. Gerald had been under Hospice Care following his diagnosis of cancer.

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Our love and prayers are with the family and friends of our beloved sister in Christ, **Theda Farris**, who took her final breath on earth at around 2:30 AM, Thursday, September 10, 2020, at the Anna Mae Owen Hospice House in Murray, Kentucky, and returned to her eternal home. The visitation and funeral were held on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at JH Churchill with Pastor Ruth officiating.

From Missy Champine, Theda Farris' daughter: *"Brothers and Sisters at First Christian, Jesus said, 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' (John 13:35) How appropriate, then, is the subtitle of your church - 'Disciples of Christ' - for the love you have consistently and lavishly poured out on my mother speaks to the love you certainly possess for our beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus! What comfort and encouragement I have experienced, knowing that Mom's local church was always there for her when I could not be. It has been a long weary journey for my precious mother for many years, and yet I have observed the kindness and tenderness you have demonstrated without end. I'm confident there is even more of which I am not aware. May God bless each of you one hundred fold for every good deed done in love for my mother! Love in Christ Jesus, Missy Champine."*

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Our love and prayers are with the family of **Glenda Roos**, who passed away on Friday, October 9, 2020, at the Murray Calloway County Hospital. She was surrounded by her loved ones as she took her last breath and transitioned over into her eternal home. Glenda was the "first lady" of our church, was well known in the community as an outstanding teacher, was an avid reader, and, above all, loved her family. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

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Our love and prayers are with John Hughes in the death of his grandmother, **Dortha Hughes**, who went to be with the Lord at the age of 95 on October 30, 2020, at Spring Creek Nursing Home in Murray. Funeral Services were held Tuesday, November 3, at JH Churchill Funeral Home.

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## Be in prayer for...



Ron Gray's Aunt Ardyth

Billie Burton

Paul Casey

Joyce and Nate Clause

Sandra Daughrity

Teresa Dowdy

Phyllis Duckworth

Nancy and Mark Dycus

Judy Eldredge

Fiona Fennell

Leon Fowler

Laura Godfrey

Donnie Hendrix

Glenn and Patricia Hughes

Tab Jakonen

Mark Kennedy

Patsy King

Ruth King

Sandra Lay Sharon Lueck

Paula Marvin

Bob and Celeste McAllister

Anna and Josh McCurdy, Aaron

Perkins

Ann McKeel

John Pasco

Carolyn Reagan

Ron Ratliff

Jean Carol Ridley

Deane Renshaw

Bill Roberts

Cecil Roberts

Betty Shea

Tom Seipel

Andrew Schultz

Scott Tamaren

Patsy Tracy

Jackie Underwood

Tony and Charlotte Van Dyke

Sharon Wells

Gary White

Douglas Williams

Bernice Willis

Dwight Willis

Linda Wilson

DeeAnna Wolf

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY REMEMBRANCES**  
**First Christian Church, Murray, KY**  
**Sunday, November 1, 2020**

*[Please light a candle to create a sacred space and as a way to honor those whose names are listed.]*

Today we celebrate All Saints Sunday, when we remember those who are near and dear to the hearts of our congregation, who have returned to God. Today we pray in memory of family members and church family members and friends. Let us remember the promises that the Lord has given us about these people, who have touched us and made a difference in our lives. Let us remember those who have gone before us—

**Whose souls are in the hands of God.**

What did Jesus promise us?

***Jesus said: “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet he shall live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.”***

***Jesus said: “Let not your hearts be troubled ... In my Father's house there are many rooms ... and when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may also be.”***

The list of people below are all those mentioned by our church family beginning on Memorial Day 2019 until the present as we were asked to pray for those they left behind. Let us remember the following people who have crossed the threshold from this life over into eternity and whose souls are now in the hands of God.

**Dr. Robert H. “Doc” McGaughey III**

**Walter Clayton “Biscuit” Stalls**

**Lila Williams**

**Moyna Maxine Arnett Sims**

**Gary Williams**

**Brian Burnett**

**Joe Pat Barnett**

**Rev. Dr. David Roos**

**Cindy Rigsby**

**Margaret Porter Boone**

**Adam Seo**

**Maxine Bruno**

**“Big” John Williams**

**Robert Cox**

**Velva Maupin**

**Rachel Watson**

**Adam Loader**

**Mary Horner Cossiboom**



**Charles Garfinkel**  
**Mary Lou Croghan**  
**Wolfgang Virmond**  
**Barbara Ann Meier**  
**Dan Parker**  
**Don Story**  
**Dave E. Maupin**  
**Ruth Hendrix**  
**Carolyn Chandler**  
**Coach Cary Miller**  
**Larry Tyler**  
**Peter F. O'Rourke III**  
**James B. 'Jimmy' Slay**  
**Joan Cud**  
**Nadine Arnold**  
**Ardis Drabikn**  
**E. Wayne Peek**  
**Joy Burgoyne**

**Julie Drake**  
**James Ray Hamilton**  
**Don Kent Lay**  
**William Taylor Wingfield**  
**Christina Jones**  
**Dorothy Voss**  
**Lochie Fay Hart**  
**Tiffany Steier**  
**Terie Burkeen Frederick**  
**Allorah Day Turney**  
**Frank Clifford Alexander**  
**Janie Eckstein's Aunt Wenda**  
**Clay Cornelison**  
**Eileen Guarino**  
**Gerald Schultz**  
**Theda Farris**  
**Glenda Roos**  
**Dortha Hughes**

Eternal God, who knows each of your children by name, we thank you for those who have run the race of faith before us, and now surround us like a cloud of witnesses. We thank you for those whose lives and love have reflected Your life and Your love to us, and have lifted us higher. They are our heroes. We thank you for those in every time and place who have been bold enough to claim you as their Lord, and have dedicated their lives to passing the Word of Your love and the hope of Your peace to each new generation. Show us, we pray, the parts You want us to play in the unfolding story of your love. Speak through us and move through us, so that Your light may shine on, and draw all of Your children into Your kingdom. We pray in the name of your Son, the Light of the world, who assures us that love is stronger than death and that after this life there is more life! Amen.

# FINANCIAL GIVING

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR August		
	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	\$ 16,417.56	\$ 19,474.61
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 14,225.04	\$ 12,020.67
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 2,192.52	\$ 7,453.94

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR Jan-August		
	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	\$111,285.28	\$120,322.45
<b>Expense</b>	\$107,329.03	\$118,432.97
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 3,956.25	\$ 1,889.48

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR September		
	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	\$ 9,328.20	\$ 16,617.36
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 13,555.24	\$ 15,257.51
<b>Balance</b>	\$ (4,227.04)	\$ 1,359.85

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR Jan-Sept		
	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	\$ 120,613.48	\$ 136,939.81
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 120,884.27	\$ 133,690.48
<b>Balance</b>	\$ (270.79)	\$ 3,249.33

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their tithes and offerings to the church! We encourage you to continue to be faithful in your giving by mailing them to the church at: *First Christian Church, 111 North Fifth St., Murray, KY 42071.*

NOTE: A mail slot has been installed that goes in through the door leading into the freezer room so that you may put your checks in there, knowing that they will be secure.

## ONLINE GIVING

Missing worship service? No problem. Make your tithes and offerings with Givelify from wherever you are, using your computer or your Smart phone app.

To make a computer donation, go to <https://www.givelify.com/givers> to start giving. To make a mobile donation, we recommend you download the Givelify app for Android or iPhone. It's free to download and use. It's totally safe and secure, and for tax time you have one-tap access to your complete donation records.

## A word from our co-youth directors

The Church Board met via Zoom on September 13, and voted unanimously to bring **Elena Roberts** and **Matthew Sandiford** on staff as our new youth leaders, who will work together with those between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.



Elena Roberts joined First Christian Church more than six years ago with son, Roman. She said: “We were loved and accepted from the very first day. I have been blessed with an amazing pastor and amazing friends which are my Church family. My life is busy with two jobs and being the co-Director for the youth. I have three cats and two dogs and a 20-year-old son at home! They keep me busy and happy. I’m excited and honored about my new position at FCC. We have many good things coming up and I thank everyone for their love and support! “



Matthew Sandiford said, “I am so glad to be here at FCC Murray to worship God with all of you. I am so very excited to come on staff here at FCC and serve alongside Elena and Pastor Ruth. Our first month or so has been very eventful. We have had wonderful food prepared for us as well as a great time getting to know one another in games and fellowship with in the youth group on Sunday evenings.

“I see a very bright semester and year ahead of us. COVID-19 may try and stop us but with our safety protocols and Jesus by our side we will make this year the best one yet. We plan on working through different world religions and how we can be open to others' beliefs without sacrificing our own in the process. Elena has a wonderful ongoing service project planned for us and I think it will be very humbling to do with our students. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for this this school year.”

## **A Note from Co-Youth Directors Elena Roberts and Matthew Sandiford**

Hello everyone,

First of all, Matthew and I want to thank you for all the support we have received. We are so excited to be the co-youth directors. We are going to have an amazing year!

Our first ongoing project will need your monthly help. It is going to be our Blessing Boxes Project.

We will be gathering non-perishable items and hygienic items for 3 weeks of each month, such as canned and dry goods, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.. Most pharmacies and Walmart should carry the small travel sizes.

On the third Sunday of each month, we are going to fill the Church Van with Blessing Box items (Matthew will drive) and it will become a pizza & delivery night. If weather permits, we will go to the park to eat and play.

Below are the dates of delivery. We also need a volunteer for these Sundays to provide pizza:

- 11/15/20
- 12/20/20
- 1/17/2021
- 2/21/21
- 3/21/21

If you can provide pizza for 10 people, please call Elena at (270) 226-9026.

Individually we can do so much, but as a group, we will be able to reach our goals to help those in need.

# SUNDAYS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**SERMON:** Pastor Ruth's weekly sermon will be included as a PDF file that will be emailed out no later than Saturday evening, along with other worship materials, joys, concerns, and announcements. Her sermon also is included as a link on our church's website at [www.fccmurray.com](http://www.fccmurray.com). Her message can also be listened to on Facebook Live (technology and internet service permitting). You may access this by going to the Facebook icon on our church's website or through your own Facebook page.

## **SUNDAY AT 10 AM ~ "SIMPLICITY SUNDAY" WORSHIP CELEBRATION IN THE CHURCH**

**PARKING LOT OR VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM:** A time of music, prayer, and communion will be offered in the parking lot at the back of the church or on Zoom (if we have inclement weather or it is colder than 45 degrees). (Please park at the side of the church or, if you have mobility issues, you may park at the bottom of the back parking lot). ***Note: check your email and the church Facebook page if the weather looks questionable. We will get information out if we need to cancel. Those of you who do not have internet access will have to use your own judgment. NOTE: The Zoom link will be sent out in the Tuesday email and again on Sunday mornings should we need to meet virtually.***

**COMMUNION:** If you are using your at-home worship kits, we encourage you to take communion at 11 AM, as you join with others at this time to share in the bread and cup. If you are on Facebook, Pastor Ruth will be officiating at the communion table before the videoed message. Communion is also offered by our elders during our gathering on the church parking lot at 10 AM (weather permitting) or via Zoom.

**CHILDREN'S ZOOM FELLOWSHIP, SUNDAYS at 4 PM ~** Nancy Dycus, Rebecca Landolt, and Allison Willis work together to offer a Zoom gathering for our children each Sunday that includes elements from Worship and Wonder, a scripture, story, activity, and time of prayer. The Zoom link to attend is sent out by Saturday of each week. If you know children who might like to attend, please let Pastor Ruth know by emailing her at [ruthragovin@gmail.com](mailto:ruthragovin@gmail.com).

## **ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**YOUTH GROUP (grades 6 to 12):** Our youth directors Elena Roberts and Matthew Sandiford will communicate with the youth to let them know when they will be meeting.

**FAITH AND FOOD** on Tuesdays at 1 PM (socially distanced) in the fellowship hall when it is safe to do so. Bring your own beverage and bag lunch as we enjoy discussing a book chosen by the group.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT 'VIRTUAL' LIVE Zoom Meeting,** Wednesdays from 6-7:30 PM. During this time of fellowship, we reflect upon a poem and the lectionary Psalm of the week. The Zoom link and materials are emailed out beforehand.

**INDIVIDUAL PRAYER AND SOLITUDE** in the Sanctuary on Thursdays from noon to 1 PM. Our beautiful sanctuary will be open each Thursday (when we can safely do so) for an hour for a time of individual prayer and solitude. You are welcome to light candles in the prayer alcove as a way of lifting up your joys and concerns to God.

**NOTE:** Please check your Tuesday emails for information about whether the Christian Women's Fellowship and Disciples Men's Fellowships will be meeting!



**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S**  
**FELLOWSHIP**

**(Consistent with Church Buildings Reopening Committee recommendations. Please keep an eye on the Tuesday email for changes.)**

**CWF I:**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Tuesday, November 10, 1 PM**

Hostess: Ann Thornton

Program: Ruth Daughaday

**Tuesday, December 8, 1 PM**

Hostess: Betty McCord

Program: tba

**CWF II :**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Monday, November 16, 7 PM**

Hostess: Billie Burton

Program: Emily Zimmerman

**Monday, December 21, 6:30 PM**

Christmas potluck at Carmen Garland's house

**CWF III : TBA**

This group, comprised of the youngest women in our church, combines social activities with gatherings in homes.

# Mental Health Awareness Discussion



The discussion on mental illness will continue  
via Zoom, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

On Thursday, November 12, follow up with president of  
Murray family support group of the National Alliance  
on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Please email [fccmurray@gmail.com](mailto:fccmurray@gmail.com) to RSVP and the Zoom meeting  
information will be sent to you the week of the event. The Zoom information  
will also be emailed out in the Tuesday email that week.





- 1 Tamara Abo Al Haija  
Sunny Kwan  
Bianca Youngman
- 2 Fred Wells
- 3 Mandy Byrd
- 5 Mike Holton  
Gideon Miller
- 6 Joseph Benton
- 10 Luke Donnelly
- 12 Debbie Dibble
- 14 Jack Epperson
- 19 Donnie Hendrix  
Diana Darnell
- 26 Wanda Lawson  
Cindy White



- 14 Howard & Crystal Dillard
- 27 Tony & Charlotte Van Dyke



**Pandemic Living Room Preaching:** Many thanks to **Russ Ragovin** for bringing the message on Sunday, September 20, 2020.



- 3 Sophie Dunham
- 6 Taylor Lynn Garland
- 10 Ashley Criswell (Nichols)
- Steven Reed
- 11 Brandon Redd
- 15 Enas Abo Al Haija
- 16 Richard Reed
- 17 Don Bennett
- 19 Wyatt Dunham
- Judy Lyle
- Catherine McKeel
- Allison Willis
- Maya Hughes
- 23 Greg Gierhart
- 26 Erica Gray
- 27 Beth Roark
- 28 Zaid Abo Al Haija
- Laura Nixon Enzendorfer
- Lesa Sims



## REMEMBER WHEN

By Jean Bennett

Due to this terrible world-wide pandemic, we don't know what's in store for us during our upcoming Christmas season. So, let's start creating the spirit we want to feel during this season by sharing one of our favorite Christmas memories with each other through creating a December daily calendar booklet of those special Christmas remembrances!

We have 25 days we can use to share those special memories. We may well have more than one memory per day and, if that happens, that will be wonderful!

In order to have our calendar booklet available by December 1st, please get your memory to FCC, 111 N. 5th Street or [fccmurray@gmail.com](mailto:fccmurray@gmail.com); or to Jean Bennett, 806 S. 16th Street or [jeanbennett28@gmail.com](mailto:jeanbennett28@gmail.com) no later than Wednesday, November 18 (earlier if possible!!)



- 12 David & Rita Daughaday
- 21 Don & Martha Chamberlain
- Steven & Richard Reed
- 23 Ron & Doris Cella
- 24 Ron & Hester Gray
- 29 Rachel & John Hughes



## **Outreach**

### **GIFTS NEEDED FOR SPRING CREEK**

Spring Creek Nursing and Rehab Center has asked our church again for 30 gifts for residents - under \$5. They do not have to be wrapped, but if you do so, please mark any male gifts - MALE. You can drop them off on Ruth Daughaday's front porch if she is not home, 1400 Vine. She will also put a box in the fellowship hall at the church to collect them. Suggested items: Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, liquid soap, Men's/Women's cologne, hand sanitizer, lotions, Kleenex, Chapstick, brush/comb sets, hand mirrors, necklaces, pens, colored pens or pencils, adult coloring books, word puzzle books - large print, small craft kits, seasonal décor. Ruth will need these by Dec. 5th. Thanks you for your outreach.

### **NEED LINE**

The Need Line pantry is low on the following items: peanut butter, soup, hot dogs, bread, spinach, lima beans, Spam, crackers, mixed vegetables, instant potatoes, spaghetti sauce, carrots, blackeyed peas, canned pasta, eggs, milk, pork, and chicken. Fresh vegetables and fruits from the garden are also welcome. Cleaning and personal hygiene items that are needed include: toilet paper, dish liquid, bar soap, shampoo, and deodorant. Need Line is located at 509 N. 8th St and is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 270-753-6333. If you drive up, they will meet you at your car and take your donations.

### **BLESSING BOX**

We have an increasing number of residents of Calloway County who are now food insecure and often see people stopping to take food out of the Blessing Box at the back of our parking lot. We encourage you to place food either in the Blessing Box beside our church or another one in the community.

# Outreach



## **LYSOL/CLOROX WIPES/GLOVES/MASKS**

Many thanks to all the many people who have been providing Lysol and Clorox wipes, gloves, masks, and cleaning materials to our church! We still need more and are asking, if you are able, to donate what you can to the church. They will be essential once we return to in-person worship!

## **LAUNDRY LOVE**

Please continue to collect quarters for Laundry Love. We have presently been unable to participate in this important ministry because of social distancing guidelines. However, when it is safe again, we will resume our involvement. In August, we participated by giving the resource centers at Murray Independent and Calloway County schools gift cards so families can do laundry at iWash. Each time we participate in Laundry Love it costs us a few hundred dollars. We encourage you to put aside some quarters to bring to the church when it resumes again.

## **MAIN STREET YOUTH CENTER**

Main Street Youth Center is in need of individually wrapped snacks. Donations may be dropped off at the youth center from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, at 513 South Fourth St. For more information, call the center at 270-753-8336.

# "CANDLES OF HOPE" OUTREACH PROJECT

We are all very excited that our youth group, under the leadership of Elena Roberts and Matthew Sandiford, will be working with Jennifer Riley and Nathan Parker of Calloway County's homeless coalition HOPE CALLOWAY to raise money to help our homeless neighbors and friends. They will be selling electric candles (for a donation of \$10) to place in your window to help "shine a light on homelessness" in our community. Candles are available for purchase through the church or at the Hope Calloway office on 629 Broad Street. All checks for the sales will be made to HOPE CALLOWAY for "FCC candle project." Many thanks to Rebecca Landolt for her donation of the initial box of candles to be purchased!

## *Shining A Light On Homelessness*

*Support HOPE Calloway and make a difference for our homeless friends and neighbors. When you make a donation of \$10, you will receive a candle to place in your window to help "shine a light on homelessness."*

**Pick Up Candles:**  
629 Broad Street  
Murray, KY 42071

**Donate in person or online:**  
[hopealloway.org/invisible](http://hopealloway.org/invisible)

**OR at First Christian Church**



# Thanksgiving Baskets

It is time to prepare for the annual Thanksgiving “brown bag” food collection for families whose names will be provided by Need Line. This year due to COVID the Need Line director has given us permission to decide the best plan for our church to participate; namely, we may collect the food, sort for each family and Need Line will be responsible to distribute the boxes of food to the families if that is the easiest for us.

Rebecca Landolt has requested names of 15 families (plus if there are church members who would appreciate some extra food for the holidays). We will distribute the brown bags with a list of suggested items for a Thanksgiving dinner. Please purchase the following non-perishables and bring them to church:

2 cans of vegetables  
box of stuffing  
can of cranberry sauce  
instant mashed potatoes  
gravy  
can of pumpkin pie filling  
pie crust

We will need contributions to purchase turkeys and perishable items as we have done each year. Food Giant graciously took our list last year and gathered all the items to load into the van (they had ordered the turkeys and had everything ready to pick up on Saturday before we distributed).

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR TO HAVE THE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND CHECKS TO THE CHURCH (make checks payable to FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH and mark for Thanksgiving baskets) by Sunday, November 22, 2020. If you have questions about this project, you are welcome to call Rebecca Landolt at (270) 293-3155 or email [21rl@murray-ky.net](mailto:21rl@murray-ky.net).

# “Simplicity Sunday” Outdoor Worship

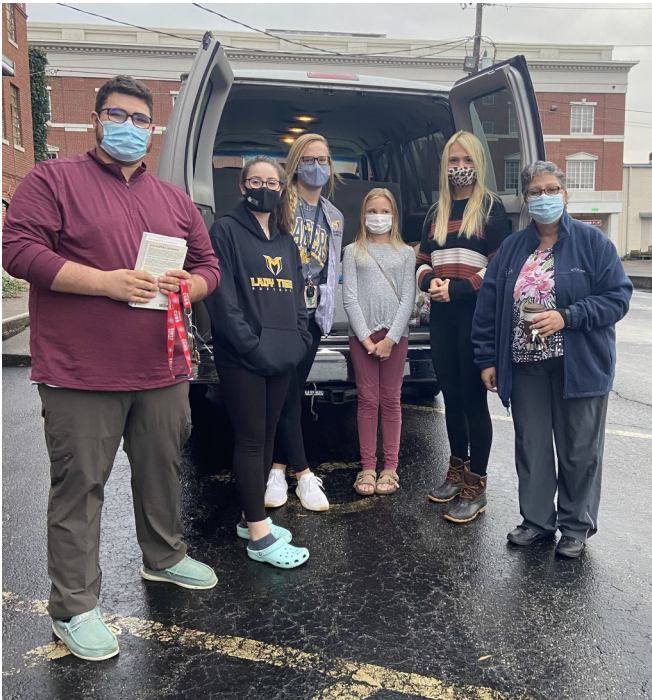


# Youth

## October 18, 2020

Sunday, October 18, was the youth's first delivery of the blessing boxes. Thank you so much to everyone that participated and who brought food. Some of those boxes were almost empty so the youth were very excited to be able to fill seven of the blessing boxes! Thank you to **Avery (Matthew's wife), Emily Dawson and her friend Chloe, Lucy Michell and Claire Gray** for joining us! We have three weeks to start collecting food again for the blessing boxes delivery date on November 15, right before Thanksgiving. Remember that this is an ongoing service project.

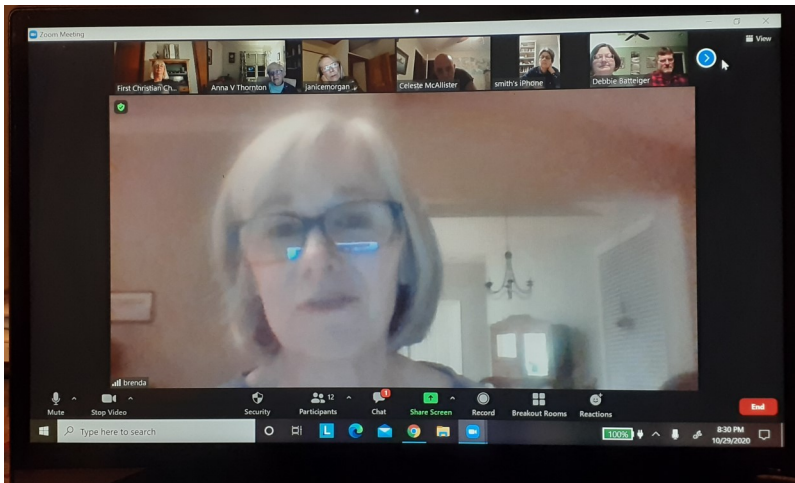
The service project for the blessing boxes will remain on the third Sunday of each month. We will need volunteers to bring dinner and drinks for about 7-8 people on Wednesdays for Nov. 11, Nov. 18, and Nov. 25.





# Mental Health Awareness Book Discussion

## October 29, 2020



# Sunday School Zoom

## November 1, 2020

During Sunday's Zoom Sunday School class, Miss Nancy led six students in a study of Ephesians 6:10-18 and reminded them to “put on the full Armor of God” and “be strong in the Lord.” The group also had a virtual Halloween party.

