

Church Life



Experiencing and Sharing Christ through Love & Service

A look back on July—September & a look ahead to Oct. - Dec., 2022

Volume 74, Issue 4

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Allow Yourself to Let Others Be Blessed

By Ruth Daughaday

"I was always the one who did things for other people. Must have been that social worker mind-set. Things change.

It all began with a broken leg, which was casted for 6 months. Church people brought lots of food, but what killed my soul was a friend vacuuming my house. I was told that it gives the helper a blessing to do for others. My independent self began to accept that. Things change again.

This time it was an aging body. Now my pride got in the way. I have fallen several times. Things are harder to lift. People, often strangers, offer to help. I try to do what I am able. But the longer it goes, the more I am grateful for the help and my pride has taken a back seat. I verbally thank the people and remind them that they have done their good deed for the day.

There are other things to which to adapt. Some of us may need to use a cane, a walker or a rollator. once again, pride gets in the way. We do not want to show the world we have gotten this old.

We have to adapt to losing friends- to transitioning from this world, to those who move to be near children, to dementia. SAD

We also learn to do things differently because of sore joints etc. That just proves how creative we are.

SO SMILE AND ADAPT!!!"

Sunday Worship Services:

9:30 AM— Sunday School

10:30 AM—Worship Service

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 11AM—1PM (and upon request)

Phone:

(270) 753-3824

Church email:

fccmurray@gmail.com



A FINAL NOTE FROM PASTOR RUTH

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making my last Sunday with you such a memorable occasion, one that I will look back on for the remainder of my life as one of the most bittersweet days in my life. Bitter, of course, because it is so difficult for me to say goodbye to the most wonderful congregation in the world that I have grown to love so much over these past 13 ½ years, fully realizing that to help make the ministry of your next pastor more successful, I must distance myself from the church starting this Thursday when my actual retirement begins. It is also bitter in part because my retirement comes earlier than expected due to the rapid onset of my husband Russ's symptoms from Inclusion Body Myositis. Yet I fully embrace and walk into this new reality, knowing that there still are adventures to be had, ways to put my faith into action, and that there is no place in this life or the next where we can be separated from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Yet, in spite of the bitterness, there was so much sweetness this past Sunday. Sweet because I was accompanied across the threshold into retirement and the mystery of an uncertain future with all your blessings, prayers, support, and love. Not every pastor has the privilege and experience of this kind of positive departure. It meant so much to me to see so many of you in worship on Sunday and to have special friends and congregants come from a distance for worship and/or the retirement reception following. A number of people joined us virtually on Facebook Live. It was wonderful to have our administrative assistant Katelyn Crane there, even though she was immediately pulled into work mode by being asked to run off extra bulletins since we were not planning on such a large attendance (thanks Katelyn!). Some colleagues and former staff members also were present.

Indeed, there were so many sweet moments along the way! Thank you Rebecca for your communion message, and Charlotte, Ann, Dan, and Amy for your kind words during the farewell portion of worship. Thank you to our wonderful, hardworking West Area Minister Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, for bringing words of appreciation from the Region to honor both my husband Russ and me as we both officially retire. Thank you to Judy Hill and Janet Finch for playing all my favorite music. Thank you to the congregation for putting up with singing my favorite hymn "*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*," which I know many of you don't like, but its melody and words have profoundly shaped who I am as a Christian. This hymn has been a soundtrack to my life dating back to my childhood days worshipping at Memorial Church on the Harvard University campus, later as an adolescent in Canada and on through the future; it was sung on my ordination day, in all the churches Russ and I have pastored, and finally on this past Sunday of my retirement. Thank you to our faithful Minister of Music Mark Dycus and the wonderful Chancel Choir for putting into music what is the deepest knowing of my spirit, namely that "*It Is Well With My Soul*." Thank you for listening to yet another one of my sermons (by now you will have listened to over 600 and I am fully aware that mine tend to be long so know how much I appreciate your patience!). Thank you for the beautiful wooden cross with the FCC plaque on it, and all the cards with their beautiful messages, and the many gifts both monetary and otherwise. Since many of the gifts were anonymous let this be a collective THANK YOU to all of you!

A FINAL NOTE FROM PASTOR RUTH

Thank you especially for the laying on of hands and prayer for me and my family at the end of worship. It was through this ancient spiritual act that I was ordained, was installed in a number of churches, and it was with this same sacred gesture that I now move into retirement.

And the reception! WOW! Such beautiful decorations, such beautiful flowers, such perfect food (I loved the cake with the red Chalice on it), and so many people from the church and community were there. The fellowship hall was filled. Never for a moment could I have imagined so many people would show up to add their blessings to my retirement celebration, especially on a day when there were so many other things going on. Special thanks to the reception team who worked so hard to put this together and who stayed to clean up afterwards. Your efforts and all the special touches were noticed and greatly appreciated. It was the icing on the cake to have Nikolas Winslow and his two-year-old daughter Finley (the only infant baptism I have ever had the privilege of performing) drive all the way in from St. Louis to surprise me at my reception!

I could go on and on (you know how long winded I am) but let me end where I began by saying that I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart for accepting me as your minister and supporting me along the way. I leave you with these lyrics to my favorite hymn that convey how I have felt while I have been with you (and you can listen to a rendition of it from the Global Christian community by going to this Youtube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldLU-6U5XDc>, which, of course does not come close to the joy that I always feel in singing it with the congregation at First Christian Church and I know would be sung even better by our Chancel Choir!):

*“Draw us in the Spirit’s tether,
for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together,
you are in the midst of them.
Alleluya! Alleluya!
Touch we now your garment’s hem.*

*As disciples used to gather
in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver
break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluya! Alleluya!
so now bind our friendship up.*

*All our meals and all our living
make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving,
we may be disciples true.
Alleluya! Alleluya!
We will serve with faith anew.”*

In Christian Love and Service,
pastor ruth

Update from the Search Committee

The pulpit search committee has been working diligently since the middle of August. We have met frequently and continue to work on filling out our congregational profile which we need to have on file for potential ministerial candidates. A big thanks to those individuals who have helped with this process even filling in some sections on their own!

We have distributed a demographic survey with the congregation and are beginning to analyze the data it provided. Further surveys will be coming to look at what characteristics we are looking for in a minister. Judy Lyle has been helping with the surveys.

We just finished three “dream and plan” meetings on two different days. We had 27 people in attendance at those meetings. Furthermore, we have even started working on some initiatives because of these discussions. Be on the lookout for a new and updated brochure on the church – a big thank you to Erica Gray. We are also exploring the idea of church t-shirts in the future.

Soon, the committee will analyze the input from the “dream and plan” meetings in order to answer questions on section XI, congregational discernment. We will also look at possible compensation packages for interim and our settled minister.

We have interviewed a potential candidate for the interim minister position and are continuing to pursue the possibility of hiring.

We have the pulpit filled with a variety of speakers through the end of December so we have breathing room in our search.

If you ever have questions, feel free to reach out to me at junevm@bellsouth.net or 270-227-3454 or any of the other committee members.

June Vander Molen, chair

Erica Gray
Donna Cathey
Emily Dawson
Elena Roberts
Celeste McAllister
Mike Holton
John Roark
Don Chamberlain

Call for Family Photos

PLEASE SEND US YOUR UPDATED FAMILY PHOTOS!



The very outdated photos on the community wall in the Christian Education building have been removed and tucked away into a historical file. **If you are a member of First Christian Church, Murray or a regular attendee, please send us a recent picture!** You can do this by dropping a physical photo in the offering plate on Sunday, through the mail slot in the Fellowship hall door through the week, or by emailing your photo to fccmurray@gmail.com

Upcoming Events



Wednesdays, 8:30 AM

Weekly Men's Breakfast @ Crossroads Restaurant

Starting Wednesday, October 26, 2022 there will be a weekly breakfast starting at 8:30 AM at the Crossroads Restaurant -808 Chestnut St. This is starting as a Men's Breakfast, and is meant just to gather us together outside of the church so we can get to know each other better. Whether someone wants just coffee, a biscuit, or a full breakfast, please join us as you are able.

Upcoming Events

BEGINNERS SQUARE DANCE CLASSES

12 years - adults

couples & singles welcome!

OPEN CLASSES
TUESDAYS 6:30-8:30PM

*No class will be held the first week of November

**\$12.50
PER COUPLE
PER CLASS
\$6.25
PER SINGLE**

**111 NORTH 5TH ST.
MURRAY, KY
FELLOWSHIP HALL OF
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

To sign up or for
inquiries contact
Bryan Warner
+270-978-7291
brykwarner@gmail.com



Upcoming Events



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Sunday, October 30, 10:30AM

All Saints Sunday

Join us during our regular 10:30 worship service for a remembrance ceremony for all our loved ones who have passed away over the last year. While their names are read, a white carnation will be placed in a vase in their memory.

“Congregation Chat” Following Worship

We will meet directly following worship on All Saints' Sunday in the sanctuary. This is the meeting where the congregation reviews a draft of the budget for 2023 and offers input and or/asks questions. Members will also receive a pledge card and a return envelope addressed to our local CPA, should they choose to make a pledge for the upcoming year. Remember, all pledges are kept strictly confidential.

Upcoming Events

Lighted Church Replicas

Homemade Jams 'n Jellies

Sweet Shop

Breads

Wreaths

Crafts

Ornaments

Bakery

Small Decorated Trees



Saturday, November 5, 2022

Bakesale and Soup 'n' Cornbread Luncheon

Fellowship Hall, Christian Education Building

Bakesale 8:00 AM—Noon

Luncheon Tickets are preorder only and must be purchased by October 27

\$6 each

Lunch pickup

10:00 AM—Noon

Raffle tickets for an antique quilt and handmade, stuffed stocking \$1 each or 6 for \$5

Upcoming Events



Saturday, Nov 12, 7:30 AM

Fall Work Day at Camp Kum Ba Ya

Join us for our Fall Work Day on Saturday, November 12 at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya (4943 Barge Island Road, Benton). Gate opens at 7:30 a.m., and work will begin at 8:00 a.m. We'll be cleaning, repairing, organizing, and splitting wood for the winter months. If you have work gloves and shoes, a weed eater, leaf blower, a tool box, a truck, a mask, and/or friends and family who would love to join you in this fun and meaningful work, bring them with you. Interim Camp Manager Rev. Dee Wells will be serving us lunch, too!

Upcoming Events



Friday, November 18 – Sunday, November 20 **All Y'all Retreat at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya**

Come to Camp Kum-Ba-Ya for a relaxing weekend away for connection, fun and renewal for everyone— individuals and families in all ages and stages of life. Mark and Nancy Dycus will be directing this laid-back weekend. Plan to arrive between 6:00-7:00pm on Friday. The retreat will close with worship around noon on Sunday.

Head to campkumbaya.org for your registration application.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 27 ~ 10:30 AM

“The Hanging of the Greens”

It's coming! It's coming! Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday, November 27. If you have a favorite part you would like to help with, let the church office know.

There are sixteen parts for the full service.

Parts include:

The Meaning of the Hanging of the Greens Service

The Meaning of the Advent Wreath

The Lighting of the first Advent Candle

The Meaning of the Advent Colors

The Lighting of the Candles in the Windows

The Meaning of Greenery

The Hanging of the Mistletoe

The Meaning of the Poinsettias

The Meaning of the Christmas Angels

The Meaning of the Christmas Star

The Meaning of the Nativity Scene

The Meaning of the Christmas Tree

The Meaning of the Tree Skirt - McCord family

The Meaning of the Chrismons

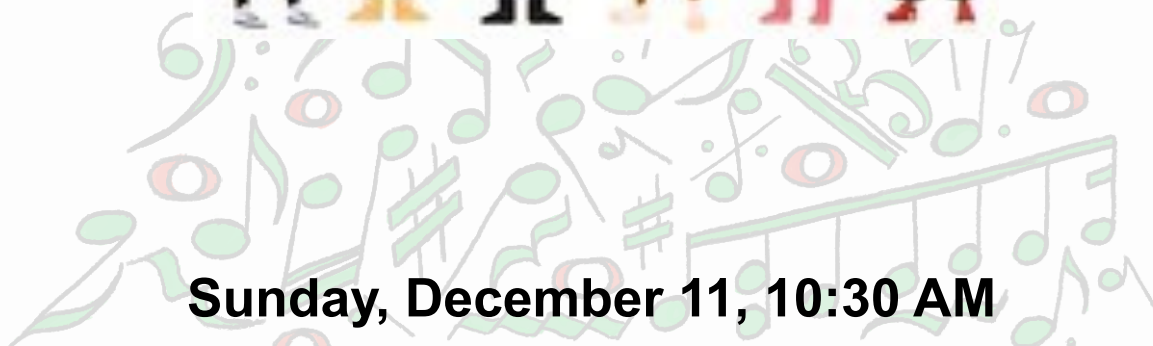
The Hanging of the Holly

The Meaning of Gift Giving at Christmas



If we don't hear from you, expect to hear from us! This beautiful service relies on group participation and is an excellent way to get into the Christmas Spirit.

Upcoming Events



Sunday, December 11, 10:30 AM

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

Imagine the Spirit of God, blowing through Bethlehem and the surrounding countryside to awaken the world to the promise of God's Son, the Messiah! Please join with the Chancel Choir, instrumentalists, and narrator Sunday morning, December 11, as we celebrate anew the wonder of "God with us" and the choir sings, "See that star? It leads to Jesus!"

Upcoming Events



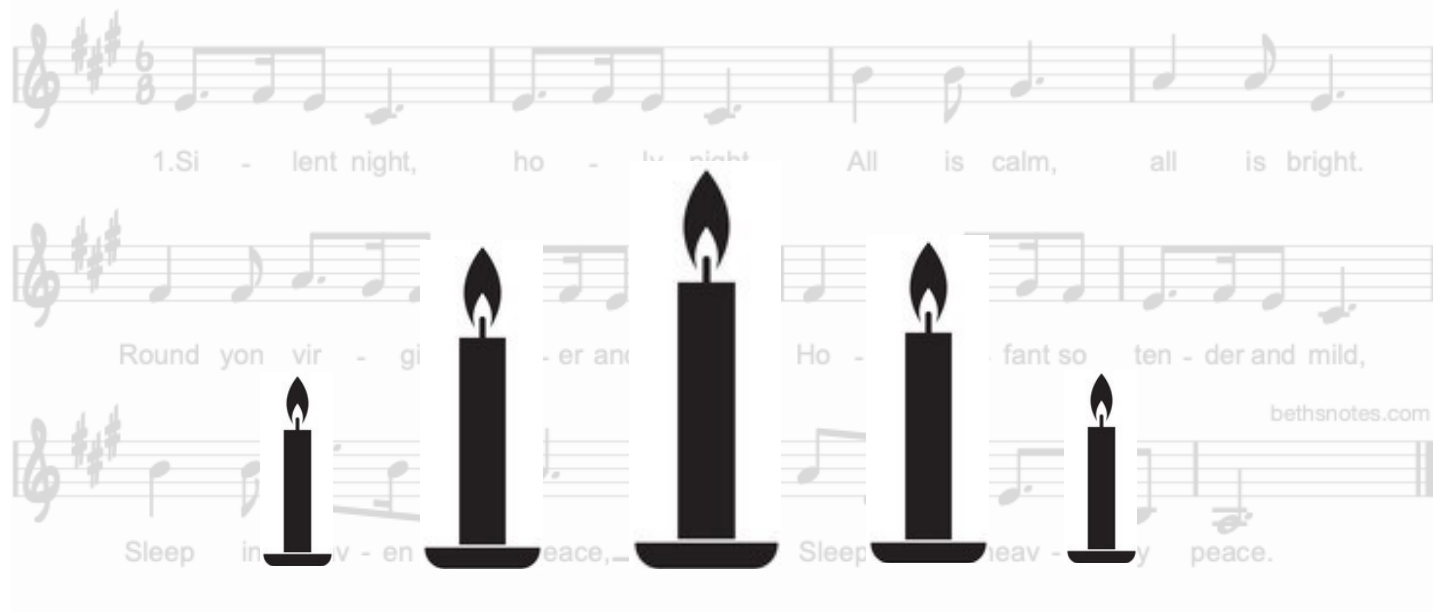
Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 PM

(The Winter Solstice)

“Longest Night – Service of Light”

Held on the Winter Solstice, which is the longest, darkest night of the year, this worship service is for those who are lonely, mourn, who struggle, and who despair as well as those who simply want to take some time out from the frantic pace of life to reflect on God’s promises to us as we watch and wait for the birth of the Christ Child in the beauty of our candle-lit sanctuary. It will create a sacred space where we will acknowledge this darkness, share our pain with God, and seek to open up our hearts anew to receive God’s love and light.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, December 24, 8:00 PM ~ **Christmas Eve Candle Lighting and Communion Service**



This service is a beautiful, inspiring service, attended by our church family and many from the community. Adding to the magical atmosphere: the church is filled with poinsettias, a Christmas tree, a star in the baptistry, candles and greenery in the windows. The service starts at 8pm and is over by 9, giving everyone time to get home and complete any unfinished Christmas day preparations and get the kids in bed at a reasonable time. The service involves a number of readers, instrumental music, special music, choir anthem, lots of congregational singing, communion, and the enchanting ending when the lights are lowered, the congregation all light candles, sing Silent Night and raise their candles on the chorus of each verse. Come and share the love and joy that flows throughout the congregation during this extraordinary service.

Christian Women's Fellowship



Both groups invite all ladies of the church to join them any month for meetings including prayer, motivational lessons and fellowship. You can even do as some do and attend both groups!

Group I Meetings:

Meets in the church Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise noted) on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm.

October 11, 2022

Hostess: Celeste McAllister

Program: Ruth Daughaday

November 8, 2022

Hostess: Doris Cella (at her home)

Program: Lynda Chaney

Decemeber 13, 2022

Hostess: Betty McCord (at her home)

Program: June Vander Molen

Chair: Judy Lyle

Vice Chair: Bobbie Raby

Treasurer: Betty McCord

Secretary: Ruth Daughaday

Group II Meetings:

Meets at the church (unless otherwise noted) on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.

October 17, 2022

Clean the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen

Meet at 5:30 PM

November 21, 2022

Hostess: Krista Crass

Program: Krista Crass

December 19, 2022

Christmas Potluck at Carmen

Garland's home at 6:00 PM

Chair: Teresa Nixon

Vice Chair: Billie Burton

Treasurer: Vicky Holton

Service Chair: Vicky Holton

Christian Women's Fellowship

CWF Prayer

*Unto Thee, O God, we give our thanks and lift
our hearts in prayer. May Thy presence be
with us and thy love surround us as we work
together in the Christian Women's
Fellowship. Open our eyes to the needs of
the world and fill our hearts with concern
for all people. Guide us, that we may truly
serve thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

Amen.

CWF General Officers for 2022-2023

CHAIRPERSON: Carmen Garland

VICE-CHAIR: Ruth Daughaday

SECRETARY: Rebecca Landolt

TREASURER: Krista Crass

SERVICE CHAIRS: Betty McCord & Vicky Holton



Disciples Men's Fellowship



Once a month, usually the third Tuesday, the Disciples Men's Fellowship meets with other men from the Disciples of Christ churches in the Far West Area for a meal, time of fellowship, and program. Our men (women also are invited!) travel in the church van to the church where the meeting is being hosted. Dan McKeel, DMF chair, will let the men know what time the van will be leaving the church parking lot.

DMF UPDATES FROM DAN McKEEL

Good morning everyone,

July 20, 2022

It was really great to see all of you last evening at Benton Christian Church.

To start with we had a record attendance with 53 persons representing 7 churches. We were also able to witness a very extraordinary act of Christian Love. This Act of Love was presented to the Mayfield Christian Church by the Benton Christian Church. Benton announced that their church had voted to be responsible for Hosting the Far West Men's meetings for Mayfield anytime it was Mayfield's turn until such time that they were able to rebuild. Wow!

Last night we also had a record giving; \$451 with \$251 for KBY and \$200 for Christian Care Communities (Pastoral Care). A check has been mailed to CCC. Our new KBY balance in the checking account is \$4,656.57.

Next Month's meeting will be held at Murray FCC, 111 N. 5th Street in down town Murray. The September Meeting will be held at Bardwell and the October Meeting will be scheduled at KBY.

Benton served a delicious meal of Barbeque, Potato Salad, Italian Green Beans, Cold Slaw and Water Melon. **Really Good!**

Our West Area Minister presented the program where she told us about what has happened/changed with our ministries during the Covid shutdown and the storms in December. Rachael told us about many different ways that our Disciple's churches have used their time to do outreach. She also talked about the new and expanded use of Zoom meetings, that has enabled many of us to meet and know people in other churches that we might not have known before. All in all, this information was very good and hopefully will give us and our churches new ideas for the future.

Thanks again for taking your time to be with us last evening and we look forward to seeing you at Murray next month.

May God continue to Bless you every day,

Dan McKeel

Disciples Men's Fellowship



Good morning everyone,

August 17, 2022

Last evening the men's group met at FCC Murray. There were 35 in attendance representing seven churches, KBY (Rev. Dee Wells) and Murray Christian Fellowship (Mike Kerrick).

The group had a wonderful meal and a short business meeting. An offering was collected where we received \$235 for KBY and \$157 for the Christian Care Communities, a check has been mailed. Our current KBY balance stands at \$4,691.57. Our group also presented Dee a check for \$200 to pay for some mower repairs for the camp.

The program was presented by Mike Kerrick, the director of Murray Christian Fellowship (MCF) on the Murray State Campus. Mike told the group about how MCF got started and how they have continued to minister to students on the campus over the years. Afterwards Mike entertained a number of questions from our group. As we mentioned at the meeting, we hope that you will take this information back to your churches. Let your congregants know what is available for your young people that may be attending or planning to attend MSU.

It was also announced that FCC Murray's Pastor Ruth Ragovin will be retiring at the end of this month and that everyone was invited to a reception for her on 8-28-22 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at our church. Pastor Ruth has served FCC Murray faithfully for 13 ½ years and we wish her the best.

Next months meeting will be held at Bardwell Christian Church on 9-20-2022 at 7pm. Burk told us that they will be serving their special "Fancy Hot Dogs" (Baby Back Ribs). Hope to see you there. Also, remember that we are planning to meet at KBY for our October meeting, 10-18-22.

May God continue to Bless you and your families,

Dan McKeel

Disciples Men's Fellowship

Good Morning Everyone!

September 21, 2022

The Far Western KY Disciples Men met at Bardwell Christian Church last night and I do believe the word is getting out about those "Fancy Hot Dogs", they were delicious and we had a big turn out! Many thanks for the meal and the fellowship.

There were 42 in attendance with seven churches represented along with Dee from KBY and two KY State Troopers who gave the program. We heard about the history of the KY State Police from its inception until now, Very, Very interesting.

A collection was taken and we received \$219 for the KBY and \$169 for the Christian Care Communities. Our new balance in the checking account is \$4,910.57.

Rev. Dee Moore Wells told us about up coming events at KBY. Also, we will be meeting at KBY for our October meeting on 10/18/22 at 7:00pm. Feel free to come early and take a look around the camp and see all the changes and improvements that have been made. There will be a camp work day on Nov. 12th and "All Y'all" Camp on Nov. 18-20.

Many thanks for all your help, attendance and support of the Far West Men, KBY and the Christian Care Communities.

Hope to see you at KBY in October,

The Far West Christian Men's group will meet

October 18, 7PM:

Camp Kum-Ba-Ya
4943 Barge Island Rd.
Benton, KY 42025

November 15, 7PM:

First Christian Church, Wickliffe
326 North 4th St.
Wickliffe KY, 42087

Far West Disciple's Men **will not meet** during the month of **December 2022.**

Financial Giving

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY		
	2022	2021
Income	\$13,283.53	\$ 13,740.90
Expense	\$ 10,313.91	\$10,411.85
Balance	\$2,969.62	\$3,329.05

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST		
	2022	2021
Income	\$15,259.02	\$13,160.92
Expense	\$14,208.56	\$14,347.38
Balance	\$1,050.46	\$(1,186.46)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER		
	2022	2021
Income	\$9,846.10	\$11,422.02
Expense	\$10,269.42	\$12,451.79
Balance	\$(423.32)	\$(1,029.77)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JAN-SEPT		
	2022	2021
Income	\$105,630.25	\$105,028.10
Expense	\$116,432.35	\$111,866.63
Balance	\$(10,302.10)	\$(6,838.53)

Upcoming Every Member Commitment (EMC) Events

Just a reminder to everyone that our “**Congregation Chat**” will be **Sunday, October 30th immediately after worship** and should last no more than 15 minutes. This is the meeting where the congregation reviews a draft of the budget for 2023 and offers input and/or asks questions. Members will also receive a pledge card and a return envelope addressed to our local CPA, should they choose to make a pledge for the upcoming year. Remember, all pledges are kept strictly confidential.

The congregation will meet again on **December 4th to approve the final version of the budget and a slate of officers for 2023**. We hope you can attend these events and provide your input.

Thanks!

Don Chamberlain, Chairman

Stewardship and Finance Committee

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.

Financial Giving

Community Rewards Programs



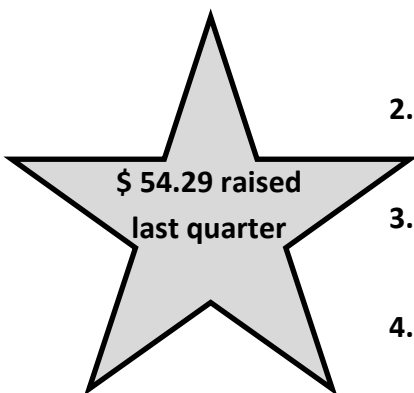
Remember, always start at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our church. To support First Christian Church when shopping on Amazon, simply click on the following link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-0482959> and shop! It's that easy!



Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "First Christian Church" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

- 1. Open the Amazon app on your phone**
- 2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features**
- 3. Select "First Christian Church" as your charity**
- 4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app**



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- 1. To enroll in Kroger Community Awards and give back to FCC, visit <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow> and log into your Kroger account.**
 - 2. Once there, you will see "Give More Back to the Community." Hit the "Enroll Now" button.**
 - 3. To enroll in awards to benefit FCC, type in "First Christian Church— Murray" or "ID458"**
 - 4. Click on the organization button (it's round and to the left of the name). Then click on "enroll." This money benefits the Building Fund.**



Joys and Thanksgivings

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October

1	Laura Lee Stephenson	21	Alyssa Daughrity
4	Luke Dibble		Celeste McAllister
5	Jeromey White	22	Brooks Daughaday
	Mitchell Fralick		Judy Eldredge
7	Cliff Dibble		Olivia Marshall
12	Hayden Warner	23	Jackson Roberts
15	Elena Roberts	24	Tim Daughrity
	Shannon Farley		Betty McCord
	Celine Alexandria Duffy	25	Isaac Benton-Ragovin
16	Amberlyn Hall	25	Bradley Dawson
19	Ethan Phelps	26	Dave Eldredge
20	Andrew Holton		Bill Lyle
		28	Jean Bennett



December

November

		3	Sophie Dunham	19	Wyatt Dunham
1	Tamara Abo Al Haija	6	Taylor Lynn Garland		Judy Lyle
	Sunny Kwan		Leo Chamberlain		Catherine McKeel
	Bianca Youngman	10	Ashley Criswell (Nichols)		Allison Willis
5	Mike Holton	11	Brandon Redd		Maya Hughes
	Gideon Miller	15	Enas Abo Al Haija	23	Greg Gierhart
6	Joseph Benton	17	Don Bennett	26	Erica Gray
10	Luke Donnelly			27	Beth Roark
12	Debbie Dibble			28	Zaid Abo Al Haija
14	Jack Epperson				Laura Nixon Enzendorfer
19	Diana Darnell				Les Sims
26	Cindy White				

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

October

14 Howard & Crystal Dillard

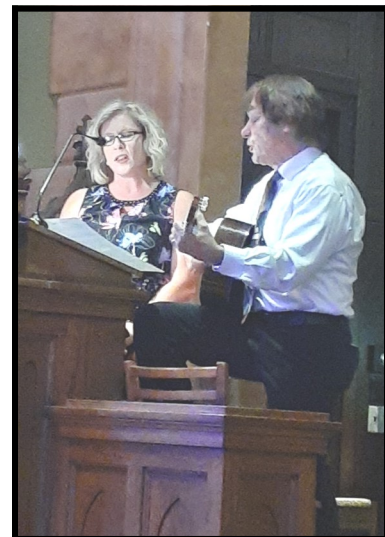
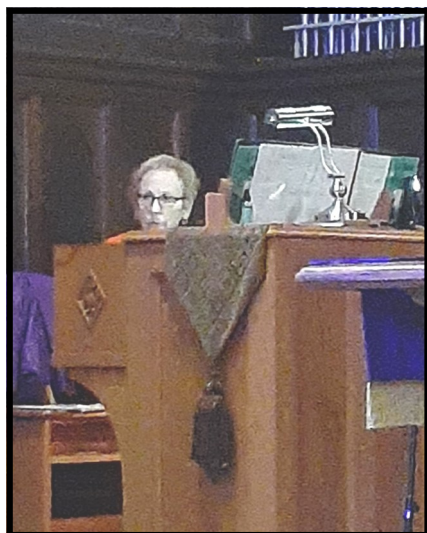
November

December

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

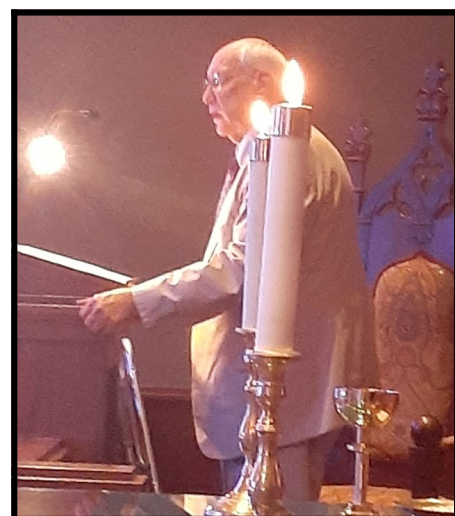
Joys and Thanksgivings

Special Music Shared During Worship



We had a wonderful worship celebration on Sunday, July 17! The music was exceptional. Once again **Janet Finch** played the most beautiful prelude and it was wonderful to hear Janet on the piano and **Judy Hill** on the organ playing together. Many thanks to **Tory Daugherty and Mark Dycus** for special music and to **Doris Cella** for her inspiring communion meditation!

Many thanks to **Doug Vander Molen** for bringing special music on Sunday, July 24! We thank God for blessing this world with you!



Special Music was also shared from the following:

Tony Van Dyke "American Trilogy" on July 3

Terry Heart & Mark Dycus on July 10

Melanie Dawson and Amy Roos "You are Emanuel" August 7

John Roark and Mark Dycus "I Will Call Upon the Lord" August 14

Robert Arenson, Lucia Unrau and Julie Warner "Lift Up Every Voice and Sing" August 21

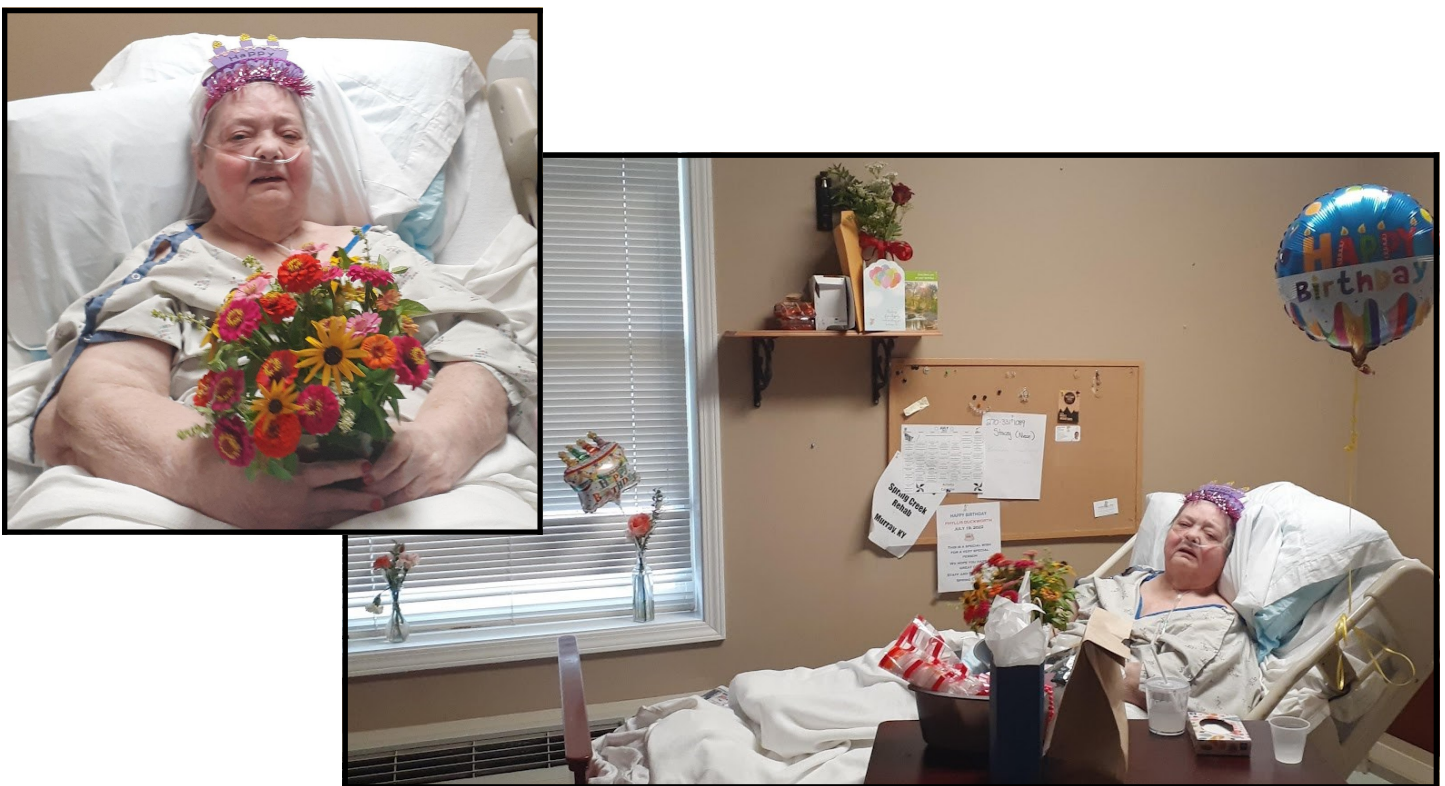
Jean Bennett and Mark Dycus "You Are My Hiding Place" August 21

Chancel Choir "It is Well with My Soul" August 28

The **Chancel Choir** sang the following during the month of September: "Sea of Mercy", "Seek Ye First", and "Clap Your Hands"

Joys and Thanksgivings

The following section contains just a partial list of the joys and thanksgivings that were mentioned in worship on Sunday mornings. We know that there are many more that are not listed here that we do not know about and we would be so proud of the person who had done well! Please do reach out and share your joys and thanksgivings with the church office or on Sunday mornings during worship so we can share your joy with others!



Phyllis Duckworth's Final Birthday ~ July 19, 2022

What a blessing that her community was able to shower **Phyllis** with love on her last Birthday with us here on Earth. She was thrilled by a number of birthday visits from people in the congregation to celebrate her 73rd birthday. She loved receiving all the little birthday wishes that were written in church the Sunday before her birthday and then placed in one of the mugs with the church picture on it! Rebecca brought her a rose; Katelyn made her a beautiful bouquet of flowers from her garden; June Vander Molen brought a beautiful vase of flowers; Pastor Ruth brought her a big piece of Dumplin's chocolate cake with a candle from the congregation. She said to tell everyone she loves them and how much she appreciated her birthday wishes!

Joys and Thanksgivings

Charlotte Van Dyke celebrated her 80th birthday in July. She enjoyed a five day cross country drive to British Columbia, where she had a wonderful celebration with family and friends! Her First Christian Church family also took time to celebrate Charlotte's 80th at Tom's Grill after church on July 17th. There were many gathered in fellowship surrounding Charlotte with love and joy on her special day!



Joys and Thanksgivings



Greyson turned one on July 17th! Here he is with his grandmother **Judy Phelps** shortly after his birthday. Thanks to Jean Bennett for capturing this sweet moment.



Pastor Ruth enjoyed visiting with congregant **Deane Renshaw** in late July. Deane is a blessing to the residents at Hickory Woods by playing the piano during their worship service at 2 PM on Sundays!



Pastor Ruth enjoyed her visit with **Jackie Underwood** and her son **Robert** and caregiver **Rhonda**. They caught up, shared communion and a time of prayer, and Jackie enjoyed listening to Amy Roos and Melanie Dawson singing their 'sisters song,' which they had sung during worship that day. Jackie also had a successful move to Spring Creek in September. She's adjusting well and really likes her new room.

Joys and Thanksgivings



It was wonderful to have **Echo and Rick Hensley and Henry Kwan** in worship on Pastor Ruth's last Sunday. **Henry** was excited to start his internship with Blue Origin, the amazing Aerospace company of Jeff Bezos, the CEO And President of Amazon. He is among the dozen picked (only 2% of the hundreds of applicants were chosen). Congratulations Henry! Henry also was able to see his former piano teacher **Janet Finch!**



Clay Howard turned one on August 8th! His mom, **Elizabeth** says "Clay is such a joy and all boy! He loves being outside, riding the mule, and baby shark."

Enas Abo Al Haija, Rasha Khalil's daughter, was chosen as the CCHS Homecoming Queen for 2022! Congratulations Enas!!



Joys and Thanksgivings

The congregation wishes to thank **Donna Cathey** for donating knobs for the cabinet doors in the Fellowship Hall kitchen and thanks to **Roger Dawson** for installing them.

A big thank you to **Rebecca Landolt**, who used some of the flowers from Pastor Ruth's retirement reception to bless several FCC friends out in the community (some that are homebound, or who may live alone). This outreach effort from Rebecca is on-going. Each week, she hand delivers our Tuesday email and Sunday bulletin to some of these same people.

Special thanks to **Lizzy Bales**, a dear friend of our Administrative Assistant Katelyn, who donated several totes full of non-perishable food and personal hygiene items to help stuff our blessing box.

*"Dear Church Family,
I am so thankful to you all for your concern recently. I appreciate your cards, prayers, texts, calls and especially the meals. And many, many kudos to Teresa Nixon for taking me to Nashville TWICE plus to Clarksville, for checking on me every day, bringing me groceries, and for cleaning the litter box .
I am lucky to be a part of such a caring congregation." **Billie Burton***



Seven of the **CWF I** ladies met on the Vander Molen's back patio on September 13 to enjoy fresh air and fellowship. Rebecca Landolt presented a study on "Love."

Joys and Thanksgivings

Congratulations to **Alyssa Daughrity** for being chosen to serve on the West Area Youth Council of the CC(DOC)!

Erica Gray was inducted into the Kentucky Association for Academic Competition (KAAC) Coach's Hall of Fame on Friday, September 24. This is recognition for her years as a successful academic coach at Calloway County High School.

Thank you to **Terry Hart** for arranging for the carpet to be pulled in the parlor, Worship and Wonder room and the southwest corner classroom. Thank you, also, to all who helped get the furniture back in place after church on Sunday.

"We'd like to thank you for the lovely flowers sent for the passing of Howard's father and the meal from Sirloin. Your support and prayers have been a blessing."
~Howard, Crystal, Milo and Sam Dillard

Congratulations to **Nina Natividad** who was nominated by Murray State University to the National Society of Leadership and Success!

A big thank you to **Judy Lyle** for volunteering a week of her time to look after the church office while Katelyn enjoyed a family vacation with her family.

"Thank you to the many who contributed to this edition of Church Life! It would not be what it is without the countless people who take pictures, write blurbs, share their personal joys, thanksgiving and concerns with us. I also want to thank those who have been working hard to keep things going in this in-between time without a minister."
~Katelyn Crane

Many Thanks to Those Who Have Filled the Pulpit

Sept 4 ~ **Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler** ~ "Jesus's Vision for Our Tables" ~ Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sept 11 ~ **Mike Kerrick** ~ "The Sounds of Healing" ~ Psalm 22

Sept. 18 ~ **Jim Gearhart** ~ "Changing the Bottom Line" ~ Luke 16: 1-13

Sept 25 ~ **Doug Vander Molen** ~ "Truth?" ~ Psalm 91

Condolences

Our love and prayers are with Lanette Thurman on the death of her son **Scott Bradley Thurman** on Friday, July 29, following a stroke that surgery could not repair. Lanette writes that: "Our hearts are hurting yet we are thankful for the time we had with him. He was loving, generous and funny.
Love, Lanette, Mark and Morgan"

Our love and prayers are with the Bearman family (former youth director) in the death of Shelley's father, **Mr. Reagan**.

Our love and prayers are with the family of twenty-six year old **Sydney Hubbard** who passed away on July 27.

Our love and prayers are with the family and friends of our beloved congregant **Phyllis Duckworth**, who took her final breath and returned to her eternal home on Monday afternoon, August 15, 2022, at the Murray Calloway County Hospital. She died of a heart attack. She dearly loved this congregation and so appreciated all that the congregation did through visits, gifts, food, and prayers over so many decades as she grieved the deaths of both her husband and daughter and so many others. Pre-pandemic she loved attending our Wednesday Night Live Gatherings. The Longest Night -Service of Light also meant so much to her. Throughout all her many challenges she faced the world with courage, strength, and a strong faith in God. Please especially keep her 27-year-old grandson Brandon Redd in your prayers. He is her only remaining family member and as a 27-year-old is tasked with all the arrangements moving forward.

Our love and prayers are with Howard Dillard and family in the passing of his father **Howard Dillard, Sr.** on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

Prayers for the friends and family of Nancy Dycus's cousin **Bill Farmer**, who passed away in California on September 13.

Be in prayer for...



- Aimee Bailee
- Patricia Binford
- Billie Burton
- Deborah Campbell
- Marcus Cavitt
- Noah Cavitt
- Ron Cella
- Teresa Dycus Dowdy
- Pam Dube's daughter, Glenda
- Xander Dube
- Melissa Durham
- Judy and Dave Eldredge
- Phyllis Garland
- David Graham
- Brenton Hall
- Mike Holton
- Phyllis Huggins
- Glenn Hughes
- Donnie Janes
- Loretta Jobs
- Mike Kerrick
- Lisa Kindall
- John King
- Patsy King
- Ruth King
- Haval Latif
- Gene Lee
- Nancy Manning
- Paula Marvin
- Bob and Celeste McAllister
- Anna McCurdy
- Eli McKeel
- Dianne and Roger Miller

- Patrick Overton & Family
- Landon Morgan
- Rob Pennington
- Aaron Perkins
- Judy Phelps
- McKenna Phelps
- Russell & Ruth Ragovin
- Deane Renshaw
- Bill Roberts
- Elena Roberts
- Roman Roberts
- Liz Rose
- LaVerda Rutledge
- Diane Samsil
- Lily Sanchez
- Andrew Schultz
- Ann Thornton
- Jackie Underwood
- Doug Vander Molen
- Charlotte Van Dyke
- Cindy Rue Wimbley
- Gary White
- Sonja Whitener
- Allison and Dwight Willis

Outreach

A report by: Melanie Dawson

During the months of July through September 2022, our church participated in the following outreach efforts:

- Contributed money (\$250) to **Laundry Love** for our month of August. Due to COVID, we no longer work at the laundromat but wash cards are given to families through the school's resource centers. Twenty cards are loaded with \$12.50 each and distributed (10 each) to the Murray and Calloway schools. We still partner with St. John's Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church for Laundry Love.
- Collected **school supplies**.
- In August, a check for \$645 was sent to **Week of Compassion** designated for the flood victims of Eastern Ky.

Ongoing Outreach activities as seen in our weekly emails:

Green **Need Line** Bags

Blessing Boxes

Rebecca's Sunday school class goes out every Sunday morning and checks/restocks the blessing box behind our church. David Robinson and many others from our congregation place items in the Blessing Box both here and other places.

Collect snacks for the **Main Street Youth Center**.

Alternative Gift Catalog

People may give alternative gifts any time of the year, which help support the following organizations: Murray's Kids Care for Hunger in Calloway County, MCCH Homeless Coalition, Church World Service, Test Fees for Calloway County Adult and Family Education, Main Street Youth Center, Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House, Starfish International, Soup for the Soul, CASA by the Lakes, Week of Compassion, West Kentucky Mentoring Program, and Habitat for Humanity, Murray/Calloway County

Outreach

Upcoming Activities:

- On October 2nd, World Communion Sunday, we took a special offering for the **Disciples Mission Fund** (designated to support all 72 ministries of our denomination). In the past two weeks, we collected \$496.35. I want to thank everyone who contributed to help fund all of these wonderful programs.
- **This Sunday, October 23 following morning worship, we will be having a packing party** to assemble “Little Acts of Kindness” bags. The bags (7” X 7”) will be taken to the hospital to be distributed to the pediatric unit and children at the ER. The last few weeks we have been collecting items appropriate for children ages 3-6 and 7-12 years of age. The list of items included: small dolls, small cars, small stuffed animals, small notebooks, small coloring books, small games and puzzles, crayons, pencils, cards, and books.
- Contribute money (\$250) to **Laundry Love** for the month of November.
- **Thanksgiving Baskets**
 - 1) If you know of someone in our congregation that could use a Thanksgiving Basket please let me know. Melanie Dawson (270-227-7968 or melanie.dawson65@gmail.com)
 - 2) As we did last year, in lieu of collecting items the church is handling every thing (perishable and nonperishable items) through the help of Food Giant. If you would like to help cover the cost of the items your monetary donations would be greatly appreciated. Put Thanksgiving Baskets on the check memo line. All of these items will be delivered to Needline on Nov. 18th and Needline will start delivering to the families on the following Monday.
- The **Tiger Christmas 2022 and Laker Christmas 2022** programs are only accepting monetary donations and then the families will go shopping. The Outreach Committee is sending money to both schools next week. If you would like to help sponsor a child at Christmas, designate on the check memo line Tiger and Laker Christmas. Their deadline is December 9. You have until Sunday, December 4th to donate through the church.

Outreach



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”.

Candles are available for purchase at First Christian Church or at the Hope Calloway office. All checks for the sales should be made to HOPE CALLOWAY.

Call First Christian Church

111 North 5th Street

(270) 753-3824

or HOPE CALLOWAY

629 Broad Street

(270) 761-6802

Many thanks to Rebecca Landolt for organizing this important effort!

Previous Events

Chancel Choral Brown Bag Meal & Fellowship ~ August 2022

The Chancel Choir had a wonderful time kicking off their new season with a gathering in the fellowship hall, spending time in fellowship while they broke bread together.



Phyllis Duckworth's Memorial Service Saturday, August 20, 2022

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the service and bereavement meal for Phyllis Duckworth. It was very well attended and we believe that Phyllis would have been so pleased with it.



Previous Events

Judy Hill's Surprise Appreciation Celebration

We pulled it off! **Judy Hill** did not know that the church was hosting a surprise celebration to thank her for her many years of service at the church until she arrived at church on Sunday morning to begin practicing for the service that day! How wonderful it was to have the opportunity to honor her and to have so many of her family members present (her granddaughter Kathryn even flew in from Boston!), to have such beautiful music presented by Lucia Unrau on the organ, Robert Arneson on the piano, and Julie Warner on the clarinet, as people shared tributes and a reception was held following. We look forward to hearing Judy play and sing in the Chancel Choir for many years to come!



Previous Events

Judy Hill's Surprise Appreciation Celebration



"Thanks so much for honoring Mom at the service. She was overjoyed, and will remember that fondly for the rest of her life!"

~ Chip Hill



Previous Events

Sunday August 28, 2022 ~ Pastor Ruth's Last Service at FCC Murray

The sanctuary was full and you could feel it bursting with love on Pastor Ruth's final Sunday at FCC, Murray. It was with sad hearts but well-wishes that we said good-bye to Pastors Ruth and Russ Ragovin. It was so hard watching her walk back up the aisle for the last time.

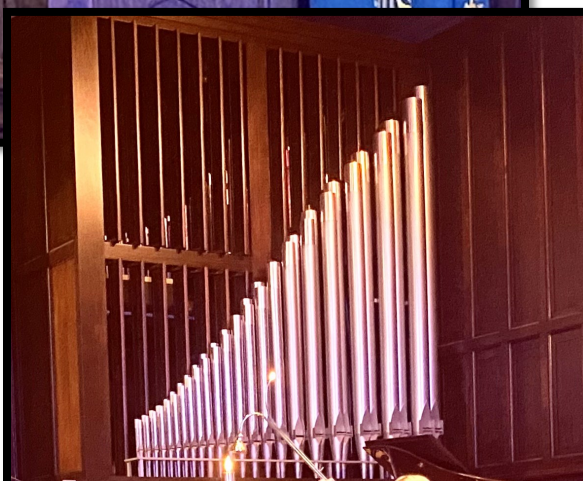
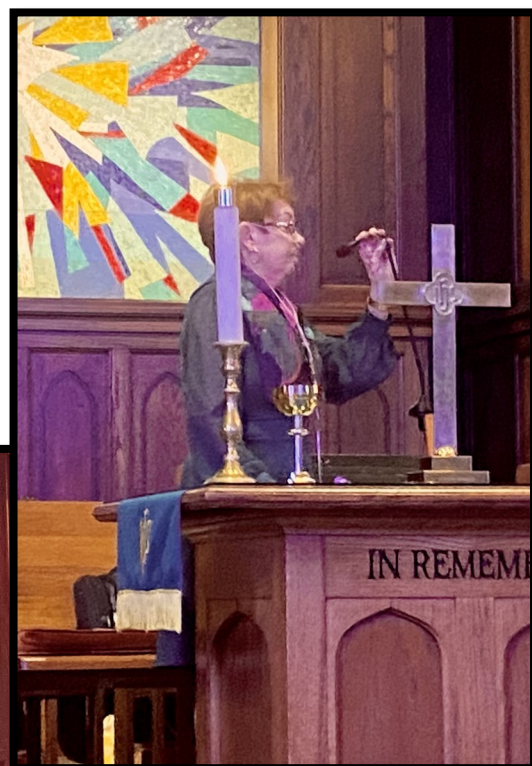
Pastor Ruth insisted on preaching. The Choral Choir led worship with some of her most loved hymns, including "It is Well With My Soul". The entire congregation sang her favorite hymn, "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether". Rebecca Landolt, Charlotte Van Dyke and Ann Thornton all spoke of memories with Pastor Ruth over the many years. We followed her sermon with a presentation of Love Gifts (presented by Elder Chair, Dan McKeel, on behalf of the congregation). The Elder's then laid hands on & prayed over Pastor Ruth. Reverend Rachael Nance Woehler presented both Pastors Ruth and Russ with retirement pins from Disciples of Christ church.



Previous Events

Sunday August 28, 2022

Pastor Ruth's Last Service at FCC Murray



Previous Events

Sunday August 28, 2022

Pastor Ruth's Last Service at FCC Murray



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Sunday, August 28, 2022

Pastor Ruth's Last Service at FCC Murray



Previous Events

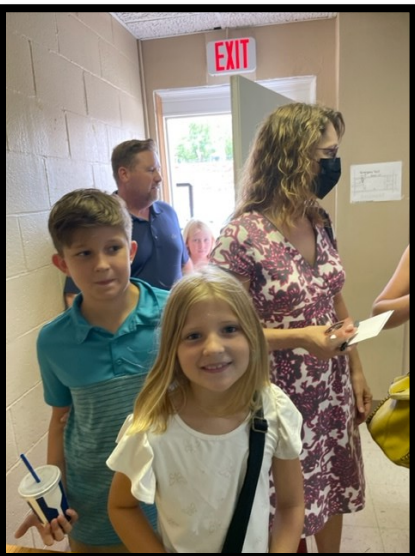
Sunday August 28, 2022 ~ Pastor Ruth's Retirement Reception

The beautiful reception was attended by many in the community as well as church members. Our love and best wishes follow Ruth and Russ.



Previous Events

Sunday August 28, 2022 ~ Pastor Ruth's Retirement Reception



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Sunday August 28, 2022 ~ Pastor Ruth's Retirement Reception



Previous Events

Annual CWF Salad Supper Wednesday, September 7, 2022

The CWF Annual Salad Supper was held in the fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm, Wed., September 07, 2022. Carmen Garland, Chairman, welcomed guest, Rev. Dee Moore Wells, Camp Manager, Camp Kum Ba Ya, who presented an overview of the activities

and exciting growth at Kum-Ba-Ya.

There were 20 present including the guest. Garland read a letter from Pastor Ruth Ragovin in which she expressed deep appreciation for the love, kindness and support she had received during the 13 1/2 years she served as the congregation's first woman minister.



Previous Events

CWF Annual Salad Supper ~ Wednesday, September 7, 2022



Previous Events

CWF Annual Salad Supper ~ Wednesday, September 7, 2022

