



# First Christian Church

## Church Life



July/August 2020

Volume 72—Issue 4

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Article	2-4
Reopening Committee	5-6
Our Church's Heritage	7-9
Our Beautiful Bldg	10-12
Member Update	13-15
Graduate	16
Weddings	17
Babies	18
Rachel Hughes	19
Zooming	20-21
Condolences	22-23
Stewardship	24
Church Activities	25-26
Mental Health	27
Events	28-31
Birthdays	32-33
Women's Ministry	34
Outreach	35-36
Photos	37-41



**"SIMPLICITY SUNDAYS"**

To begin on Sunday, August 2, 2020

10-10:30 a.m.

in the Sanctuary of First Christian Church

**[Jesus said]:** <sup>28</sup>*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.* <sup>29</sup>*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* <sup>30</sup>*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*" (Matthew 11:28-30)

At a time when our world seems to be weary and carrying so many heavy burdens, we invite those of you who feel ready to return to our beautiful sanctuary to attend a simple service of refreshment for your souls on Sundays from 10-10:30 a.m. Because we need to limit the amount of time we are in an enclosed space together, the Church Building Reopening Committee, in conversation with Pastor Ruth, is designing a beautiful 20-30 minute worship celebration that will include those elements that are best shared in community: joys, concerns, prayer, communion, instrumental, and possibly special music. Pastor Ruth will continue to provide both manuscript copies of her sermon as well as preach on Facebook Live that can be used in addition to our in-person worship services. These will also be delivered to all those who are not on the internet. Over the coming weeks, we will be monitoring Covid-19 in our community as we also work to get sufficient internet service and the technology needed to be able to later move to a longer service that will be videoed in its entirety. Stay tuned for more information to be provided in our Tuesday emails!

**First Christian Church**

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Dear Church Family and Friends,

How are you all doing? While I have been able to connect with many of you on the phone, do occasional limited visitation, Zoom with some of you during our sweet Wednesday evening gatherings with the adults and Sunday afternoon gatherings with the children, and actually see some of you in real live person (albeit physically distanced and behind our masks or face shields) during our Sunday morning Outdoor Worship gatherings, I so miss being able to see everyone in our sanctuary on Sundays and in various small groups and other activities during the week. I especially miss being able to visit our homebound and those who live in assisted living facilities. It's wearing on me, as I'm sure it is on many of you. I'm excited, though, that we hope to be able to open up our sanctuary for thirty minutes on Sunday mornings beginning in August!

Now that we are entering the fifth month in Kentucky of a global pandemic, we are realizing that many of the hopes we had to return to "business as usual" will not happen soon. In fact, I've heard some scientists recently use baseball metaphors saying that we might think of ourselves as being in the second or third inning of a nine-inning game of the first pandemic wave. Innings have various characteristics and emotions attached to them. During the first inning or two, as you operate with a certain strategy, you might find yourself ahead and can have feelings of optimism that you are going to win. But then in the third inning your opposing team strikes you out and you realize that you have to shift your strategy.

During the first inning or two of the pandemic in the life of our congregation, we operated with realism coupled with a kind of naïve optimism that we would return to "church as usual," even within a month or two. After all, Kentucky was doing a good job of "flattening the curve," businesses were starting to reopen (albeit much more slowly than many would have liked), daycares were opening, people were starting to go out to restaurants again. Churches were starting to reopen: some with strict guidelines and others without any. Yet this third inning is showing that in our rush back to normalcy we may have been moving too quickly and too optimistically. In fact, I belong to a number of clergy groups around the country where so many ministers have had to close their sanctuaries shortly after opening. Some because there have been Covid-19 cases related to worship attendance (even where there were strict distancing and mask requirements); others because Covid-19 cases began increasing again in their communities. After shifting an entire service from online back to in-person, they had to shift them online again.

Finding ourselves in what may well be only the third inning of a nine-inning first wave of the pandemic, our Church Buildings Reopening Committee and I have been prayerfully considering what we can offer at this time of uncertainty when we humbly stand before an equal opportunity virus whose aim it is to infect everyone it can. This calls for an ability and willingness to respect science, set aside previous notions of “church as usual,” and imagine new ways of operating, which may not resemble what other churches in our community are doing. Since the virus limits the amount of time people should be in an enclosed space together (the longer you are exposed to the aerosols that linger far longer than previously thought, the more dangerous they are), we realize that we should limit any time together in the sanctuary to **less than 30 minutes**. This leaves the question of what are the most important spiritual activities and practices when there is such precious little time to be together in our beautiful sanctuary. My view is that they are those that are best done and enhanced when in community with others: the sharing of joys and concerns, prayer, communion, the enjoyment of spiritual music that elevates our souls to God. Our plan is to open up our sanctuary on Sundays from 10-10:30 a.m., beginning in August. We will be calling this service “Simplicity Sunday,” with the hopes that it will provide refreshment for your souls during this challenging time we live in.

I, of course, will continue to provide the best sermons I possibly can (with occasional help from my wonderful husband Russ). My messages over these past months have been designed to be a kind of combination Sunday School class and sermon in one as I’ve tried to provide some scriptural and theological substance to what I am doing. This is in response to those of you who have said how much you miss Sunday School and our small groups as well during this period of time. However, at a time when we have to limit worship to less than thirty minutes and provide the most important communal elements, it seems best to parcel out the preaching / teaching components of worship. I encourage those of you who would like read or listen to my messages to do so on your own either through the emailed or hand delivered sermons or by listening to them on Facebook live. Until we can resume regular length services, we will have to move forward in a hybrid manner. Part of the worship experience will be offered on Sunday mornings in our sanctuary beginning in August; part of the worship experience will be offered for you to do on your own. For those of you who will choose to continue to stay at home until you feel it is safer to return to our sanctuary, you may continue to use your at-home worship services and additional materials that will be emailed out or delivered to your homes.

There are definite benefits to the kind of “hybrid service” we are proposing. First, it allows us to take the necessary time to work toward being able to have the means to livestream our service in the future. Second, it allows for the necessary flexibility to make course corrections along the way. After all, should we have a really bad spike of Covid-19 infections, it is much easier to decide not to have an in-person worship celebration and move to outside worship again when what you are offering is a more limited worship experience than when you have moved the entire worship experience back to an in-person event. We look forward to moving forward in this more flexible, experimental way, knowing we may need to shift our strategy going forward.

In closing, I want to mention that, in addition to the externals, there also seems to be a spiritual shift when one is in the third inning. I’m sensing that initially it felt as though we were collectively in a kind of PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) almost Twilight Zone kind of moment, stressed if not even somewhat traumatized by all the changes in the world around us. Now, in this third inning, I’m feeling a kind of spiritual nudging that my friend Michele Tamaren describes not as PTSD but as PTG or “Post Traumatic Growth.” Michele identifies the five factors of PTG as: appreciation of life, relationship with others, new possibilities in life, personal strength, and spiritual change. This is a stage where one has accepted what has been and now is open to new growth and possibilities. In fact, I’m sensing that many people are even excited about the challenges that lie before us because they offer new opportunities to prayerfully and boldly reimagine who and what we are. Instead of looking backward to what has been, to “church as usual,” I challenge our congregation instead to embrace our position on the third inning of the playing field of life with faith-filled optimism, radical hope, and compassionate courage as we accept the changes brought by the pandemic and other social unrest as a creative moment to usher in new ways of being church both together and in our world. New and wonderful things already are happening as God’s Spirit moves among us! And remember that, while we might only be in the third of a nine-inning game, God is in the stands cheering us on! We will be victorious! Carry on!

In Christian Love and Service

Pastor Ruth

# From the Church Buildings Reopening Committee

July 7, 2020

Greetings from the Church Building Reopening Committee:

At our June 16 meeting, chair Judy Lyle reported that 47 surveys were returned, a number that represents approximately 70 congregants as only one survey per household was requested. A key question on the survey asked who would return to the sanctuary for the Sunday service when we reopen: 55% indicated they would “very likely” do so, an encouraging response.

Pastor Ruth indicated the need for sufficient internet service and additional technology in the sanctuary to continue providing the worship opportunities we’ve offered our homebound members during the Pandemic. John Hughes, Rob Clause, Mark Dycus, and Donnie Hendrix have graciously agreed to serve on this committee.

Jean Bennett, after exploring several options for the serving of communion, recommended that one individual fill the communion trays with cups of grape juice to be handed to congregants as they enter the sanctuary. To minimize touching, individuals will be asked to provide their own bread (or crackers). Communion will be moved to the beginning of the service with one elder presiding at the table.

John Roark and Tony Van Dyke have been monitoring the external benchmarks related to the number of COVID-19 cases in our community to see whether we can safely reopen.

To reduce the amount of time indoors, the committee recommends a 30-minute service: eliminating group singing since this is a major way that COVID-19 can be spread and providing collection plates at the entry and exit door should help us reach this goal.

We are delighted that Jennifer Donnelly has offered to resume Worship and Wonder in the large room on the third floor of the Education Building. (Allison Willis has a lowered immune system that may prevent her returning for a period of time.)

As survey respondents overwhelmingly favored—and in keeping with the CDC guidelines and recommendations from the Kentucky Council of Churches, and our denomination—attendees will be expected to wear masks, practice social distancing (the entrance and exit door and pews will be marked to ensure compliance), and wipe restroom surfaces after each use.

Because considerable effort is required to complete the aforementioned tasks, the reopening committee needs additional help! Please contact one of the following chairs to offer suggestions and assistance:

Doris Cella — Social Distancing (with Terry Hart)

Ann Thornton & Sharon Rue — Sanitizing Guidelines

Jean & Don Bennett — Communion

Mark Dycus & Donnie Hendrix — Music & Worship

Dan McKeel & Rob Clause — Elder Duties

John Hughes — Technology (with Rob Clause, Donnie Hendrix, and Mark Dycus)

John Roark & Tony Van Dyke—monitoring external benchmarks

As soon as the committee can complete a plan that makes our church family feel safe, we will reopen the building (with some limitations).

We meet again on July 14. Stay tuned!

Doris Cella, Co-chair

# Our Church's Heritage

## Remembering Our Heritage

*By Rebecca Landolt*



The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Murray, KY, was built on a “firm foundation” (Matthew 7:24-27 and 16:18-19). The present building in which the sanctuary is located was constructed and dedicated October 08, 1905. This site and physical structure has been a blessed gathering place for the Church which bases its spiritual foundation on the Trinity: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Many storms of life have been weathered here and each has contributed to the spiritual growth and development, not only of the congregation as a whole, but individually as members of the body of Christ.

My family has been richly blessed to have had a heritage in the Disciples of Christ which began in 1903 when my dad's mother, Edna Shultz (Dublin), gave her life to Christ at the age of 14 at a Disciples of Christ revival meeting somewhere under a tent in Graves County. After she was married and living in Mayfield, KY, she joined the First Christian Church (DOC) (our sister church at 121 South 9<sup>th</sup> St., Mayfield, KY). My grandfather, Fred L. Dublin, from a family of the Methodist faith, was baptized in the same service (1922) that my dad was baptized at the age of ten years. The family moved to Murray and transferred their membership to First Christian Church of Murray. My and my sister Barbara's mom, Cordie Maie Faust Dublin, transferred her membership from the Paris, TN First Baptist Church where she had grown up. Barbara and I grew up within our congregation and were baptized at the same service during a “preaching mission” in April 1956.



Only after our mom had passed away and with loving concern, Barbara transferred her membership to the church where she worships near her home (Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord, MA). She and her husband, Charles Schiappa, share an interfaith marriage (he is Catholic); thus, they share worship services with both churches. Barbara D. Schiappa is the author of *MIXING, Catholic-Protestant Marriage in the 1980's, A Guidebook for Couples and Families*, published by Paulist Press.

It was November 1956 when this beautiful building we know as the First Christian Church Sanctuary in Murray suffered a major fire. The funeral for the late Don McCord's father had been held with a large congregate of members and friends and, shortly after the group left to travel to the cemetery, the furnace exploded and the massive fire was devastating to the structure and to the congregation. God had led this group of Christians through the construction of what is now our Educational Building. Following the fire, worship services were held for a few Sundays in the auditorium at Murray High School (now the Murray Middle School). Mr. W. B. Moser, an Elder who was also our MHS Principal, and his wife, sat in front of us.

I have listened to a number of stories about the "near tragedy" of this fire and how our Elders and other members worked, spiritually, physically, and mentally, led by God to tear out the damage and reconstruct the building as what we recognize today. The late James Rudy Allbritten (I believe he was the Board Chairman at the time of the fire) father of Lynda Houck, told me lots of stories about how challenging the restoration work was for everyone. He said the guys physically dug out the debris from the basement with shovels and picks and were so overwhelmed and tired they even "cussed," but knew God would understand and forgive.

This "pandemic of 2020" reminds me of the challenges this congregation has endured and survived. First Christian Church (DOC) has withstood many storms within the leadership as well as within the physical structure. Now, because of the COVID virus we have been forced to physically distance ourselves from each other, to worship from home, to try to continue teaching our children from home but even in this we are not alone. As long as we are connected, we are not separated from Christ, we are spiritually together, one church family led by our Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. May God bless us with compassion, gentleness, wisdom and concern for all during this difficult time.



# Our Church's Heritage

## Giving Thanks for Our Church

*By Gary White*

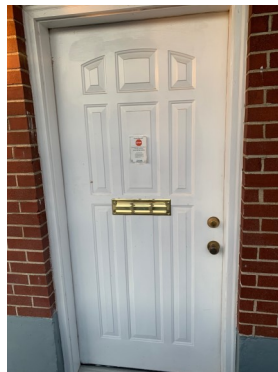


As I listened to Donnie playing the organ a revelation came to me. Our beautiful old historic church, which has survived through fire, wind blowing out windows, the north tower roof caving in, the building still stands. The people outside listening are the church, Christ's church, the faithful, a true remnant. They are the faithful. And our pastor has guided, encouraged us. We are thankful for her and our director of communications. We go forward and know we will recover and continue the work Jesus set forth. Even a deadly plague won't deter FCC Murray 'from our solemn duty.'

# We Maintained Our Beautiful Building



Many thanks to **Robert Underwood** for generously purchasing a **whole new carillon system** for our church! After our present carillon began failing in April, he first drove from Nashville to Murray to help install a battery backup and when it continued to have problems he researched and purchased a new system. It has been delivered to the church and will be installed in the near future. We both look forward to hearing its beautiful music sound from our church tower and also to find a special time to honor his younger brother Stephen, in whose memory the Underwood family purchased it, whose fifty-year death anniversary is this year.



Many thanks to **Terry Hart** and **Dan McKeel** for installing a **mail slot** on the door leading into the room beside the kitchen where the freezers are. During this time of pandemic when people were mailing their checks or leaving them in the mail box, we had security concerns (and when it rained alot, they were sometimes soaking wet and needed to be hung up to dry!). Now we all can rest assured that what is mailed and dropped through the mail slot is safe.

# We Maintained Our Beautiful Building



Many heartfelt thanks to **Ronnie Moore** for providing \$900 for the new stained glass window to replace the one that was shattered during a recent storm, along with another generous check to go into the General Fund. He sent us the following beautiful note that will mean so much to so many in our congregation:

*"I am sending the church a check to help financially due to the virus situation that has destroyed the U.S. economy. ... My family has been members of FCC since 1952. My Dad, "Clem" Moore was a deacon and Elder, and Brother Porter and David Roos spoke at his funeral. My mother Lemore "Tut" Moore was a member of the Ware-helm class until her passing, and Bro. Roos spoke at her funeral. Growing up in Murray was a great learning experience. I played sports and one of my heroes to watch in High School and later in life at Church and here in Bowling Green was Don McCord, a great guy. I hope Betty is doing well. I have a few folks left at church that know me, but I also have lost a lot. Tell Don Chamberlain to spend wisely. Also, Rebecca and I were in school at the same time. Mike Holton and Vickie are long time friends. Terry and Leah Hart also are friends. Lastly, Dan McKeel seems to do everything for the church and its members. I know his Mom and Dad would be very proud of him, as I am.*

*GOD BLESS, Ronnie C. Moore.*

*P.S. I enjoy the sermons that you are sending out on the internet."*

# Repair and replacement of church window

May 23, 2020

Many thanks to the following people:  
**Terry Hart** and **Rob Clause** for cleaning up the shattered stain glass after the window was blown out during a strong storm; **Ronnie Moore** for purchasing the new window; **Dan McKeel, Rob Clause, Steven Horwood,** and **Joe Croghan** for replacing it.



# Update on Our Members

**Echo and Rick Hensley's** house finally closed in Murray (after some bumps along the way) and they moved into their new home in Tennessee. Echo will be keeping her church membership with us and we look forward to having them in worship occasionally! Echo and Rick's new address is 411 Summit Drive, Medina, TN 38355.

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**Sharon Lueck**, her son and daughter moved into their new home at 701 Sycamore Street, Murray, KY 42071 in May! **Steven and Richard Reed** graciously allowed Sharon to live in their home with them for 14 months as they helped Sharon get her home renovated and ready to live in. Many thanks to the following people who helped with the move on May 2: **Dan McKeel, Larry Jackson, Bryan Warner, Grady Pennington, Mary and Wyatt Dunham!** Steven and Richard ask that we extend their appreciation to all of them for their hard work!

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Congratulations to **Rasha Khalil**, who passed the difficult CSP safety exam in May!

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Dan McKeel would like to share this video his grandson, **Solomon McKeel** (pictured above with younger sister, Tanvi) and his classmates made: [https://youtu.be/\\_bZCaINZO9s](https://youtu.be/_bZCaINZO9s), called "Radio Play." He said he is very proud of his grandson!

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# Update on Our Members



**Jim Stickler** had an art exhibit at the Murray Art Guild! The newspaper announced the following: “The Murray Art Guild Community Art Center announces its June MAG Gallery exhibit, ‘Faces and Figures’ by local artist Jim Stickler. The exhibit will run from Friday, June 5, through Friday, June 26, and can be viewed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. A virtual walk-through of the exhibit may be found online at [murrayartguild.org](http://murrayartguild.org).”



On Monday, June 1, members of FCC (pictured above left are **Nancy Dycus, Pastor Ruth Ragovin, Elena Roberts, and Ann Thornton**) attended a Community Vigil in front of Roy Stewart Stadium for "peace, justice and equality for our brothers and sisters of color, whose lives were taken out of injustice acts of hate and power."

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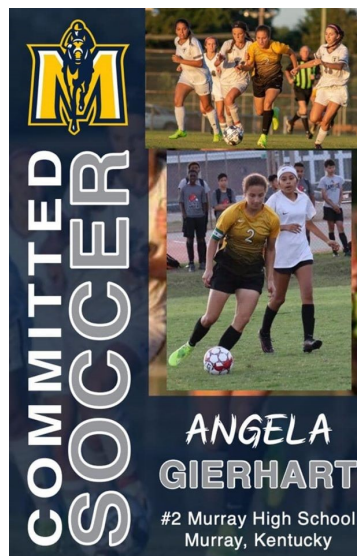
Many thanks to **Ruth Daughaday, Rebecca Landolt, and Ann Thornton** who have been delivering the weekly announcements, joys, concerns, and message to those in our congregation who are not on the internet.

# Update on Our Members



Congratulations to **Bradley Dawson** who was voted as the outstanding male student at Murray High School!

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Congratulations to **Angela Gierhart**, who has committed to continue her soccer career at Murray State University. Angela is an upcoming senior at Murray High School where she also has played basketball and softball for her high school team. We all will look forward to cheering her on!

# Congratulations to Another High School Senior!



## Maria Rosa (Mia) Rue

- She is the daughter of Adam Rue and grandchild of Sharon Rue and the late Ron Rue.
- Mia graduated from Lincoln Park High School, a performing arts high school, on June 5.
- She studied drama at Lincoln Park, starring in plays such as *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *The Wardrobe*, *The Princess Bride*, and *The Importance Of Being Earnest*.
- She also played varsity rugby for three years, earning a second place state finish her junior year.
- She will be studying political science and drama at Eastern Illinois University this fall, making her a fourth generation EIU Panther.
- She hopes to go to law school to work for environmental and human rights.



# Weddings



Congratulations to **Joseph Roso and Kristen Brooks**, who were married on Saturday, May 23, in North Carolina! (A reception will be held next year.)

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Congratulations to **Gary Moore**, who grew up at First Christian Church, who married his best friend **Linda Bartrom** on Monday, July 6, 2020. Gary writes that:

*“Without question, God brought Linda and I together two summers ago and we couldn’t be happier—especially since we’re moving to Louisville in August. Blessings abound!”*

# Babies!



Congratulations to Lesa Sims on the birth of her beautiful granddaughter, **Holly Wren Hightower**, who was born on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at St. Joseph Health in Lexington, KY, weighing 6 lbs, 12 oz. and 20 inches long. Proud parents are Samantha and Matt Hightower!

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Charlotte and Tony Van Dyke have a new great grandson! Congratulations to their granddaughter Jazmine Flores-Anderson, who gave birth to a beautiful little boy, **Leo Alexander**, on May 21, 2020 at 8:10 AM in Canada! (Baby Leo is seen in the photo to the left with his two older siblings.)

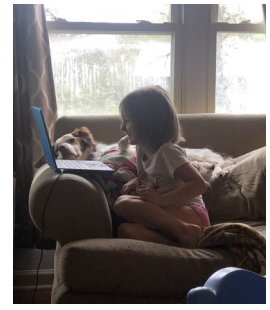
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Bruce and Beth Dobyons have a new granddaughter! **Charlotte Julia Forrester (CJ)** arrived on her parents' Leslie and Phil's anniversary on May 24, 2020, at 8:40 a.m., weighing 8 pounds 11 oz, and is 19 1/4" long. They thank everyone for all their prayers and good wishes! She join mom Leslie, dad Phil, and big sis Evie Lou, who is 3 1/2 years old.

# What I Hope My Children Remember About COVID-19

*By Rachel Hughes*



We played games. Cranium. Phase 10. Uno. Ticket to Ride. Every night.

We learned. School work. Piano lessons. Discovering things in the yard. Making. Building. Baking. Trying new foods. Learned to ride bikes. Read hundreds of new books online and on paper.

We explored. We walked in the cemetery. Ran in the yard. Hunted for eggs around our yard because we have free ranging birds. Found eggs in our hydrangeas, pansies, and deep in the ivy by the cool of the house. Squealed with delight over the first lightning bug catch and release of the year.

We zoned out in front of the tv. Bluey. Clue. Airplane. Muppet Treasure Island. Fancy Nancy. All three Back to the Future movies.

We got dirty. Muddy feet from the puddle near the driveway. Sweatiness from racing through the cemetery stones. Dirty from planting plants and seeds and tilling the garden.

We stayed as connected as we could. FaceTiming Grammy and PopPop. Instagram pictures. Shouting to Nana and Papa across the road. Zooming with friends from school. Racing through the yard with a friend on a video chat.

We all pitched in. We all stayed home.

We all did the best we could because none of us have done this before.

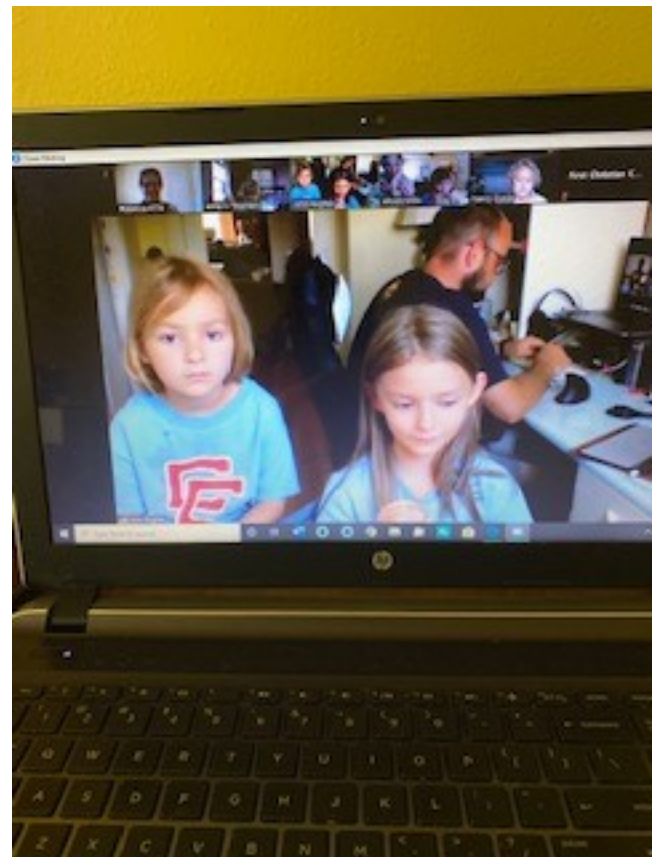
We all loved each other and got through it together.

I heard a phrase recently that has brought more calming change to my life than the turmoil of the coronavirus could ever hope to achieve: the uncircumstantial fruit of the spirit is seeded in heavenly places.

May our girls know and our little family remember that although the world changes rapid-fire around us and uncertainty often hangs thick in the air, our peace and joy will never rest on the circumstances surrounding us: it is fruit that is seeded in heavenly places by our magnificent Father.

# The Kids Have Been Zooming!

Our children's director **Nancy Dycus**, Worship and Wonder leader **Allison Willis**, and Sunday School teacher **Rebecca Landolt** have overseen a wonderful Children's Zoom gathering most Sundays at 4 PM. **John Hughes** has helped oversee the Zoom. After a time of welcome, the children have lit candles, opened with their Worship and Wonder song, one of the children has read a scripture, a story related to the scripture has been told followed by a time of sharing of projects or show and tell the kids did in relation to it, enjoyed the "feast," shared prayer concerns, joined together in prayer, and extinguished their candles.



## The Adults Have Been Zooming!

The adults have been meeting for “Wednesday Night ‘Virtual’ Live” Gatherings on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM. We have been sharing an informal time of fellowship as we catch up on how each other’s weeks have been, followed by a time of reflection upon a poem and psalm. It is interesting how many people have been drawn to poetry during the pandemic, as we have as well in our discussions of poems by Maya Spector, Wendell Barry, Seamus Heaney, Rudyard Kipling, Thomas Merton, John O’Donohue, Emma Lazarus and Rumi. We have reflected on our own lives through these and, as we have applied lectio divina to our lectionary psalm of the week, have listened to God’s voice in our lives as we have identified words, phrases, and passages that have spoken to us. We ended our time by sharing prayer requests, joining together in the Lord’s Prayer (that almost sounded like glossolalia because of the time lag between our voices), and farewells. We encourage you to join us no matter where you live!



***Pastor Ruth’s mother, Dr. Dorothy Richardson (pictured above), has been joining our Zoom gatherings from her home on the Canadian border. Ruth’s sister, Dr. Sarah Richardson, has joined us from Chico, California!***



# Condolences

Our love and prayers are with Rob Clause and family, whose oldest sister, **Joy Burgoyne**, passed away on Thursday, May 21, peacefully at her home in Minnesota, following a courageous battle with cancer.

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Our love and prayers are with Susan Drake and Caryn Drake in the death, on Wednesday, May 20, of their younger sister, **Julie Drake**, at her home in Murray, KY. Julie, who was only 38 years old, was highly talented and will be greatly missed. She was the daughter of our beloved church member Linda Drake, who passed away four years ago. Julie had struggled with numerous health issues over the years and sadly died of natural causes.

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Our love and prayers are with the family of **James Ray Hamilton**, 77, of Murray, Kentucky, who died at 1:35 a.m. Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at his residence. He is survived by wife, Jean, who grew up in FCC (her father was the treasurer when Rev. David Roos was the minister).

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Bobbie Raby's 67-year-old son-in-law, **Don Kent Lay**, died quite suddenly and unexpectedly on Thursday, June 25, in Jackson, TN, after going into cardiac arrest. Visitation and funeral were at Arrington Funeral Home in Jackson, TN on Sunday, June 28, with burial at Ridgecrest Cemetery on Monday, June 29.

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Our condolences are with Janet Schell whose 27-year old nephew, **William Taylor Wingfield**, died unexpectedly Thursday evening, June 25, 2020.

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# Condolences

Our love and prayers are with the family of **Christina Jones**, the mother of Gabe and Hadassah Elkins, who passed away on Wednesday morning, June 24, after a long battle with cancer. She taught the KidVid Cinema for our Cooperative VBS for the last few years. We all enjoyed her beautiful smile, joy-filled laughter, and, especially, her contagious Christian faith.

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Our love and prayers are with Ann Thornton in the recent death of her 92-year-old cousin , **Dorothy Voss**, in a nursing home.

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## Be in prayer for...



Ron Gray's Aunt Ardyth

Abby Broz

Billie Burton

Joyce and Nate Clause

Ruth Daughaday

Sandra Daughrity

Teresa Dowdy

Phyllis Duckworth

Darlene Dunn

Mark and Nancy Dycus

Theda Farris

Fiona Fennell

Leon Fowler

Eileen Guarino

Laura Godfrey

Donnie Hendrix

Patricia Hughes

Sharon Lueck

Nancy Manning

Olivia Marshall

Paula Marvin

Celeste and Bob McAllister

Anna and Josh McCurdy

Ann McKeel

Louis O'Keefe

John Pasco

McKenna Phelps

Aaron Perkins

Carolyn Reagan

Bobbie Raby

Ron Ratliff

Jean Carol Ridley

Deane Renshaw

Bill Roberts

Cecil Roberts

Andrew Schultz

Gerald Schultz

Tom Seipel

Betty Shea

Scott Tamaren

Patsy Tracy

Jackie Underwood

Geraldine Van Diel

Sharon Wells

Gary White

Bernice Willis

Dwight Willis

Linda Wilson

Ron Wright

# FINANCIAL GIVING

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR April		
	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	\$ 11,929.35	\$ 18,825.73
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 12,004.41	\$ 18,770.21
<b>Balance</b>	\$ (75.06)	\$ 55.52

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR Jan-April		
	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	\$ 51,205.83	\$ 59,187.95
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 54,418.46	\$ 61,913.76
<b>Balance</b>	\$ (3,212.63)	\$ (2,725.81)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR May		
	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	\$ 19,339.37	\$ 12,824.99
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 9,865.32	\$ 13,264.04
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 9,474.05	\$ (439.05)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR Jan-May		
	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	\$ 70,545.20	\$ 72,012.94
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 64,283.78	\$ 75,177.80
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 6,261.42	\$ (3,164.86)

## 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.



# REGULAR ONGOING ACTIVITIES

## Weekly Wednesday Night 'Virtual' Live Gatherings for Adults

**Wednesdays from 6-7:30 PM** ~ Wednesday Night 'Virtual' Live Zoom meeting for a time of fellowship and to reflect prayerfully upon our lectionary psalm and another piece of writing. The log in information will be included in our weekly Tuesday email. Those who do not receive this mailing may email the church at [fccmurray@gmail.com](mailto:fccmurray@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom Link to attend.

## Weekly Sunday Afternoon Virtual Gatherings for Children

**Sundays from 4-5 PM** ~ A time of fellowship for children that includes elements from Children Worship and Wonder and Sunday School that is led by Allison Willis, Nancy Dycus, and Rebecca Landolt. The Zoom link is mailed out to families. 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)

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

### *During July*

**ORGAN CONCERT, SPECIAL MUSIC, COMMUNION, AND PRAYER at 12 NOON:** Park near the church or sit on one of the chairs (placed at least six feet apart from one another) that have been put outside the sanctuary and listen through the open doors of the church. Chairs will also be put out on the front lawn of the church (along with a table with bottles of cold water) to get people in the shade. Our hopes are to listen to Donnie's organ concert outside the sanctuary doors and then move over to the church lawn to enjoy Mark and team's special music, communion, and a time of prayer.

### *During August*

**10-10:30 AM ~ "Simplicity Sunday" Worship in the Sanctuary** (with joys / concerns / prayer / communion / music). Social distancing guidelines are being established. The wearing of masks in the sanctuary will be mandatory (with masks available for anyone who might not have one).

NEXT PAGE ➡

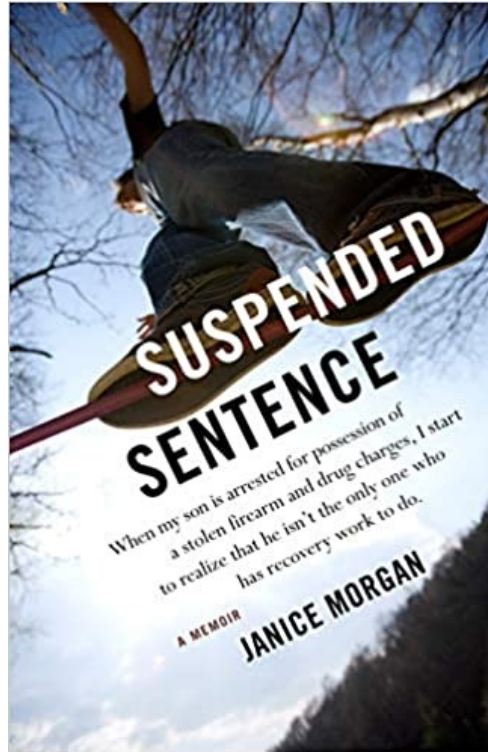
## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

### ***During July and August***

**AT HOME WORSHIP:** A copy of our at-home worship service is included as a link on our church website at [www.fccmurray.com](http://www.fccmurray.com). The sermon will be included as a PDF file that will be emailed out on Saturday, which also will be attached to our church's website at [www.fccmurray.com](http://www.fccmurray.com). The sermon may also be listened to on Facebook Live (technology and internet service permitting), usually beginning on Saturday evening. You may access this by going to the Facebook icon on our church's website or through your own Facebook page.

**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 participating in worship via Facebook Live, communion also will be included there. During Sundays in July communion will be offered on the church's front lawn at noon (weather permitting). During August, communion will be offered during worship (instructions about this to follow from our Worship Chair, Jean Bennett).

Mental Health Awareness Book Discussion of  
Janice Morgan's book,  
"Suspended Sentence: A Memoir"



Discussion will continue via Zoom 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 23, Chapters 9-19

Thursday, August 27, Chapters 20-28

Thursday, September 24, Chapters 29-31

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. Copies of *Suspended Sentence* are available from Amazon.

# July and August Events

## “FAITH AND FOOD”

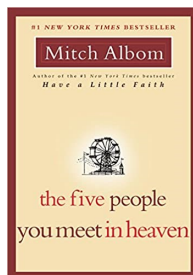
**Tuesday, July 28, 2020**

**Tuesday, August 18, 2020**

**1 p.m.**

**The Fellowship Hall at First Christian Church**

*Bring your own lunch and beverage as we maintain physical distancing!*



### ***“The Five People You Meet in Heaven”***

“Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him, as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It’s a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers. One by one, from childhood to soldier to old age, Eddie’s five people revisit their connections to him on earth, illuminating the mysteries of his ‘meaningless’ life, and revealing the haunting secret behind the eternal question: ‘Why was I here?’” ~ Amazon Review

**On Tuesday, July 28, we will discuss pages 1-97.**

**On Tuesday, August 18, we will discuss pages 98-196.**

***Copies are available from the church for approximately \$11. Please let Pastor Ruth know if you would like a copy and she will get one to you.***

# AMERICA'S 'ORIGINAL SIN'

## SHARING STORIES ABOUT RACE IN AMERICA

*"So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them." ~ Genesis 1:27 (NRSV)*

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." ~ Galatians 3:28 (NRSV)*

*"Do the best you can until you know better.  
Then when you know better, do better." ~ Maya Angelou*

Last year our congregation was given numerous opportunities to explore issues related to systemic racism, including an educational mission trip to Alabama to better understand its historic roots. Little could we have imagined, just one year after our trip to Alabama, the protests and riots that would break out in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others, along with heated discussions over confederate statues and monuments, including the Robert E. Lee monument in our court square. Fortunately, in our community, the conversations have been largely respectful and we hope they will continue to be so.

To continue addressing issues of race in our nation, we are grateful that congregant Robert McAllister is willing to share with us his experiences of being the white father of three adopted black children and one white child, whom he raised here in Calloway County. Additionally, Pastor Ruth's close friend, Dawn Thierry, is willing to candidly describe what it was like to grow up as the daughter of a white mother and black father, raised by her black grandmother in Illinois but attending a predominantly white parochial school, which has allowed her to experience life from a unique perspective. We encourage you to join our Zoom discussion to learn from their experiences as they also are open to answering any questions you have! The link to participate in these will be emailed out the week beforehand and also may be given if you email the church office at [fccmurray@gmail.com](mailto:fccmurray@gmail.com)

**Thursday, July 30, 2020**

**6 PM Central Time**

**“The Challenges and Blessings of Being an Interracial Family”**

**A Zoom Discussion with Robert McAllister**

**(Please email [fccmurray@gmail.com](mailto:fccmurray@gmail.com) for the Zoom link)**



Can the effects of systemic racism also be felt in Calloway County where we live? Bob McAllister will share the story of how he and his first wife Robyn adopted and raised four children (three African American daughters and one white son). Initially, Bob and Robyn lived in numerous locations while both serving in the military, which was made up of people from all walks of life and where racism, while not totally absent, was not tolerated. They were concerned when they eventually moved the family to Calloway County, KY. Bob will share stories of what it was like to raise his children in this community where they experienced both acceptance from most and some forms of racism by others on a few occasions. Overall, his entire family has been warmly received by all communities of people they have come in contact with. Bob says that “It’s as if we have been able to successfully marginalize the race issue!”

*Bob McAllister, a member of First Christian Church, proudly served in the U.S. Army. He first served as an Armor Officer and Aeroscout Pilot/Instructor Pilot for 8 ½ years and then went on to fly for the Coast Guard for another 12 ½ years until his retirement. His first wife Robyn of 32 years (deceased), also a U.S. Army Officer, served in the Signal Corps. Together they adopted and raised four children. Bob is enjoying his retirement years in Murray with his wife, Celeste.*

**Tuesday, August 11**

**6 PM Central Time**

**“The Challenges and Gifts of Growing Up Biracial in the Midwest”**

**A Zoom Discussion with Dawn Thierry, R.N.**

**(Please email [fccmurray@gmail.com](mailto:fccmurray@gmail.com) for the Zoom link)**



***Dawn Thierry (middle), with Grandam Edith Henricks (left), and her Mom Mary Lou (right) on a summer day in Galesburg, Illinois.***

Dawn Thierry has graciously agreed to make herself vulnerable, answer questions, and honestly share what it was like to grow up as the biracial daughter of a black father and white mother in west central Illinois in the 1960-70s. While these stories from her own personal history might make many people uncomfortable (and truth be told they should!), hopefully they will spur us to greater awareness and compassion, ultimately leading to concrete action in creating a more just society.

*Dawn Thierry was born in west central Illinois in 1960 to a white mother and a black father. The landmark civil rights U.S. Supreme Court “Loving v. Virginia” case had not yet been decided. Interracial marriage, though legal in Illinois, was not permitted in all states in the USA. Dawn’s parents divorced when she was four and, from that point on, she lived mostly with her black paternal grandmother. She was educated primarily in Catholic schools, where she was one of the only black students. Her faith was influenced by attendance at her grandmother’s African American congregation on Sundays. After beginning her college degree at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Dawn went on to get her associate degree in nursing in 1983 in Galesburg, IL, followed by her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, TN, in 1991. She has worked as an RN at the Cookeville Regional Medical Center since 1997, primarily as a charge nurse. Dawn also is a yoga instructor at Synergy Mind and Body Institute and is a master quilter and knitter. Dawn is married to TTU art professor emeritus Ward Doubet and she has two adult children.*



- 1 Mitch Ryan
- 3 Ruth Ragovin
- 4 Melanie Dawson
- 6 Jessica AsBridge  
Teresa Nixon
- 7 Teri Gould  
Beth Dobyns
- 8 Brian Daughaday
- 10 Raghda Abo Al Haija
- 11 Claire Jones
- 12 Keisha Kinsley
- 14 Scott McKeel
- 15 John Hughes
- 16 Kelly Dibble Stalls  
Dianne Miller
- 17 Eric Roberts
- 18 Judy Nichols
- 19 Eddie Phelps  
Phyllis Duckworth
- 20 Ann McKeel
- 21 Brenton Hall  
Drew Holton
- 22 Charlotte Van Dyke
- 23 Ellen Blalock
- 24 Dee Roberts
- 25 Gary Frank Crass  
Emily Dawson  
Dan McKeel
- 26 Tim Allbritten
- 27 Doug Vander Molen
- 28 Alison Marshall  
John Roso  
Joseph Roso
- 31 Sharon Wells



- 5 Dave & Judy Eldredge
- 6 Roger & Melanie Dawson
- 11 Doug & June Vander Molen
- 16 Chip & Erica Gray
- 18 John and Beth Roark
- 25 Blake & Shawna Munger





- 1 Teresa Dycus Dowdy
- 3 Alan Bearman
- 5 Paula Marvin
- 6 Gary Crass  
Roger White
- 7 Don Chamberlain  
Catherine Crass Gonzalez  
Gary White, Jr.
- 11 Hunter Harness
- 12 Julie McKeel
- 13 Nancy Manning
- 14 Scott Marvin
- 16 Tony Ryan
- 17 Bryan Nixon
- 18 Rob Clause
- 20 Mike Ryan
- 21 Yaman Abo Al Haija
- 22 Laurel Gray
- 23 Joey McKeel
- 24 Kevin Hume
- 25 Cliff Darnell  
Marge Roy  
Norma Jean Williams
- 26 Tony Van Dyke  
Rachel Hughes
- 27 Janie Eckstein
- 29 Andy McKeel
- 30 Hester Gray



## *Happy Anniversary*

- 6 Gary & Diana Darnell
- 7 Dan & Ann McKeel
- 11 Bill & Judy Lyle
- 12 Terry & Leah Hart
- 15 Russ & Ruth Ragovin
- 16 Mark & Nancy Dycus
- 18 Bruce & Beth Dobyns
- 21 Scott & Paula Marvin
- 22 Don & Jean Bennett
- 24 Andy & April McKeel

# Women's Ministries



Dear Kentucky Disciples Women,

I am saddened to inform you that due to the uncertainties surrounding the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Kentucky Disciples Women's Ministries Cabinet thought it best to cancel this year's fall retreats. Both the Silent retreat scheduled for November 6-8, 2020 and the Barren River Retreat scheduled for November 14-15, 2020 are canceled. Since we would stand to lose a good bit of money if we held off on this decision much longer and given the fact that we can't control the spaces at either venue, the Cabinet made this difficult decision. Hopefully, we will be able to get back to some of our regular events next spring.

The Cabinet and I discussed having some pieces of a retreat brought to you virtually around that same time. If we can work that out, we will certainly let you know. Also, please keep in mind that your Blessing Box offerings can be sent to the regional office at CCK, PO Box 910503, Lexington KY 40591. You may also send your fall retreat offerings for scholarships, costs offsets, and Woman-to-Woman to the same address. We've missed our offerings this year and we need to keep that balance up for future use.

Praying all are staying healthy and safe. Also, I sure am missing you all!

Peace,

Linda J. Jones

Associate Regional Minister

Christian Church In Kentucky



## **Outreach**

### **NEEDLINE**

As we approach a sweltering summer, Need Line has put out an appeal for fans. Please consider purchasing one and bringing it directly to Need Line. You can be sure that someone will be so grateful to have it help take the edge off the heat this summer. Needline also has asked for donations of complete pancake mix, pancake syrup, peanut butter, soup, hot dogs, bread, spinach, macaroni and cheese. Fresh vegetables and fruits from the garden are also welcome. Cleaning and personal hygiene items 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 am to 3 pm 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.

### **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. 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.

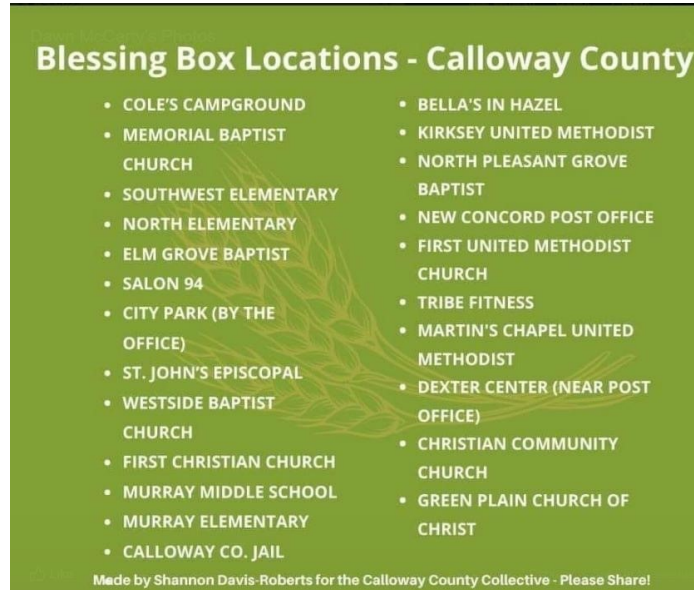
### **MCKENNA PHELPS**

Please remember to keep on sending mail to McKenna Phelps. You may send her a postcard, no letters. They may be mailed to the following address:

McKenna Phelps  
Calloway County Jail  
310 North Fourth Street  
Murray, KY

# Outreach

## 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.

## **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!

# At-Home Worship Centers



**Doris and Ron Cella**

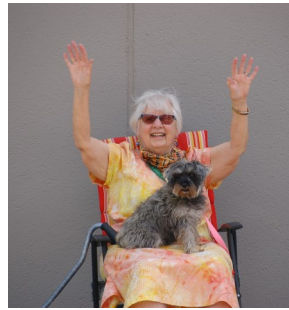


**Mark and Nancy Dycus**



**Rebecca Landolt**

# Outdoor Worship



# Outdoor Worship



# Outdoor Worship





# Outdoor Worship

