

# Church Life



Experiencing and Sharing Christ through Love & Service

April, May, June 2022

Volume 74, Issue 2

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**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:**

Main office:

[fccmurray@gmail.com](mailto:fccmurray@gmail.com)

Pastor Ruth:

[ruthragovin@gmail.com](mailto:ruthragovin@gmail.com)



## Pastor's Article



Dear Church Family and Friends,

This past Saturday I held our annual Spring Spiritual Retreat at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya. After having to cancel the retreat in 2020 because of Covid and then hosting last year's 2021 retreat on "Celtic Christian Spirituality" on zoom, it was such a blessing to be back on the grounds of KBY, where we have gone yearly since 2011 to learn about different topics (Spiritual Disciplines, Forgiveness, Overcoming Worry, the Changing Seasons of Our Lives, Discernment and Decision Making, the Cosmic Christ, The Hymn of the Pearl, the Enneagram, Sacred Words and Prayer Beads, and more). I think people have wanted to attend these retreats as much for the opportunity to be in the beauty of nature at KBY as to learn about the topic itself. In any case, Saturday felt like a kind of homegoing after not having been there for two years and it was so healing and wonderful to be there.

I don't know the whole story of how it happened (and it's one I would like to hear the details of) but back in the 1950s our church and First Christian Church of Mayfield together provided the seed money for the purchase of this wooded property on the lake outside Benton that would become one of our KY region's two denominational camps. Over the years, with its simple rustic A-frame cabins (sweltering hot in the summer and I remember more than one pesky mosquito), scores of children, youth, and adults have descended on the camp during the summer months and been transformed as they have caught the Christian faith in the community of friends and the beauty of nature. I've observed how the children and youth at our church look forward to returning year after year and how the friendships they form with their peers and counselors are so important to them. Emily Dawson, now a college student (who unfortunately because of Covid's shutting down the camp was not able to attend her junior and senior years), even wants to go back as a counselor this summer!

Our church not only sends children and youth to summer camp and have provided counselors, but we've hosted our own camps, Mark and Nancy Dycus have overseen family camp (All Y'all Camp), we have our annual spring spiritual retreat there, both the church and CWF give special offerings for the camp's maintenance and programming, and the Disciples Men's Fellowship have especially been involved. Every year the men go for the annual Spring Work Day and help spruce the place up, do repairs, and so much more. I know they were heavily involved in building the bathhouse some years ago. Fred Wells has helped with electrical work. Terry Hart has supplied lumber. Dan McKeel has organized work crews. Gary White helped with the purchase of the new chairs in the lodge that are in memory of David Roos. I think the men are planning on building a deck for the camp manager's home and are exploring purchasing a log splitter. In short, not only did we supply the seed money for the purchase of the camp so many years ago but we have heavily invested ourselves in it over the years. As we should for this beautiful camp on the lake— with its

## Pastor's Article

canoes, sailboats, basketball courts, fire pits, outdoor pavilion, craft lodge, dining hall and kitchen, outdoor worship spaces, hiking trails, and heated and air-conditioned cabins and “vintage” cabins for those who might still like to have the more primitive camp experience—is a gift from God to all of us to be cherished!

Now is an especially important time for us to help with the camp for the most amazing thing has happened. The camp has received the incredibly generous donation of 8 FEMA buildings as a memorial gift in honor of a young boy who loved the camp and sadly passed away. (I will ask the West Area office to share the full story with you of who he was and how this all came to be). These FEMA buildings will be turned into 8 cabins, all of which will have heating and air conditioning. At least two of the cabins also will have their own bathroom facilities. Of course, a few of the “vintage” cabins will be kept. We now can move into having a year-round program! Praise God!

Our new camp manager, Rev. Dee Moore Wells, and her husband Al, gave us a tour on golf carts around the camp when our retreat had finished on Saturday. The camp presently looks like a construction zone with heavy equipment everywhere, some of the cabins up on cement foundation blocks, others waiting to be moved. The insides of the cabins need to be thoroughly cleaned before they can be furnished. The recent tornado and storms have left many trees with branches felled, limbs lying on the ground. Some work needs to be done down at the lake front. And we need to be able to open our doors to campers in June! **There is so much work that needs to be done! We need to ask EVERYONE to help!**

This really is an all-hands-on-deck moment when we need everyone to contribute getting the camp ready in some way. People of all abilities are needed from those who can help gathering up all the wood (and cutting logs), helping with any number of projects on the list that Dee has created (on the next page), to cleaning up the cabins, and even doing things while seated. We have an opportunity on **Saturday, April 23, from 8 AM to 2 PM** to help with **clean up**. And then at **2 PM** we can rejoice as we **dedicate the new cabins**, praying that God will continue to send campers to fill them, knowing the transformative power our beautiful campground has in changing people's lives as they become followers of Jesus and then go out to change the world!

And parents and grandparents, please sign up your kids for camp! The camp dates are on page 5. And ask your kids to invite their friends as well! We have plenty of cabins with space ready to fill! There also are some funds available from our church to be able to send campers who might need some financial help. All you need to do is ask!

In Christian Love and Service,  
Pastor Ruth

# Camp Kum-Ba-Ya



**Saturday, April 23**

**Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Spring Workday and Cabin Dedication**

**Gates open at 7:30 AM, work begins at 8:00**

**Cabin Dedication at 2:00 PM**

Bring your hammers, paint brushes, work gloves, leaf blowers, weed eaters, ladders, chain saws, rakes, tool boxes, cleaning gloves, and friends and family, and join us for a great day of meaningful mission work at the Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Spring Work Day.

Please bring a sack lunch or picnic lunch to eat in the pavilion or on the grounds.

## **Some of our top priority projects for opening camp this summer include:**

- replacing batteries in smoke detectors
- preparing audio-video equipment
- repairing benches
- repairing cabin door screens
- sweeping and cleaning the interiors and exteriors of the cabins
- adding bumpers to the dock
- raking vesper areas
- preparing the HVAC system
- replacing ceiling tiles

# Camp Kum-Ba-Ya



**CAMP KBY**

**JUNE 6-11** CHI RHO (6-8)  
**JUNE 12-18** CYF (9-12)  
**JUNE 24-26** DISCOVERY (K-2)  
**JUNE 27-JULY 1** JUNIOR (3-5)  
**JULY 4-8** CHI RHO SAILING (6-8)  
**JULY 11-15** CYF SAILING (9-12)

[www.campkumbaya.org](http://www.campkumbaya.org)  
@CampKBY  
@KentuckyKBY  
4943 Barge Island Road  
Benton, Kentucky  
P.O. Box 1332  
Madisonville, KY 42431

**Come be a part of a historic summer at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya!**

<b>June 6-11</b>	<b>Chi Rho Camp</b> (grades 6-8)
<b>June 12-18</b>	<b>CYF Camp</b> (grades 9-12)
<b>June 24-26</b>	<b>Discovery Camp</b> (grades K-2)
<b>June 27-July 1</b>	<b>Junior Camp</b> (grades 3-5)
<b>July 4-8</b>	<b>Chi Rho Sailing Camp</b> (grades 6-8)
<b>July 11-15</b>	<b>CYF Sailing Camp</b> (grades 9-12)

Everything that you need to register may be found on the "Register" tab at [www.campkumbaya.org](http://www.campkumbaya.org)

# Pandemic Update

We reopened our sanctuary to worship last Palm Sunday, 2021, after being closed for in-person worship for a year. We have been able to remain open for Sunday morning worship over the past twelve months with the exception of a very few Sundays when we suddenly plunged into a red zone. How exciting it is that we can report that the entirety of Kentucky, with the exception of one county, is now in a green zone! All small groups can now meet in the church buildings. As long as we continue to be in a green zone, masks no longer are required including during singing (of course, some of you may feel you would like to continue wearing them and we will continue to make masks available). As an extra measure of caution, for the time being we will continue to use prefab communion cups and not pass the offering plate. Additionally, starting this Sunday, to make reasonable accommodation for those who may be immune compromised or still concerned about the spread of Covid-19, a very small section of the sanctuary will be cordoned off for you to sit in, with the majority of the sanctuary being open seating. A virtual option will continue to be offered on Facebook Live (also accessible to those who do not have a personal Facebook account) but we will no longer be offering a Zoom option for the worship celebration. We still will continue to keep a close eye on the spread of Covid-10 as a new variant is now circulating. If and when there are changes, we will make course adjustments, which will be published in the weekly Tuesday email. We thank everyone for their understanding and compliance with the safety measures that we have had and will continue to have in place!

## **The Chancel Choir Will begin Singing During Worship on Easter Sunday!**

The best news is that the Chancel Choir, which began practicing a few weeks ago, will present their first anthem this upcoming Easter Sunday!!! Many thanks to Mark Dycus and Judy Hill for keeping the music program of the church up and going during these past two years, enhanced over the past few months by Janet Finch (be sure and read the article by her on page 18)

## **The Nursery will Reopen on Easter Sunday!**



After two long years while we have struggled with the pandemic and have not been able to offer nursery service, we finally look forward to welcoming back our wonderful nursery attendant Lisa Allen on Easter Sunday! At present we will only be offering nursery service during the worship celebration at 10:30 AM. If, however, we find that there also is a need during the Sunday School hour we will expand nursery service for that period as well. So come and bring your babies or grandbabies, knowing that they will be in the very best of hands with Lisa!

## Upcoming Events



**Thursday, April 14**

**Maundy (Commandment) Thursday**

**6 p.m. ~ Candlelit Biblical Foods Meal (fellowship hall)**

*Come and enjoy some of the foods that would have been eaten in Jesus' time that may include lamb, chicken, lentil stew, hummus, yogurt, olives, dates, apricots, eggs, wine (over 21 only) and grape juice, and much more!*

**7 p.m. ~ Maundy Thursday Service: The Fellowship of the Upper Room and the Office of Tenebrae ("Service of Shadows")**

*Come and participate in an ancient Tenebrae service, dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. We will hear the last seven words that Jesus spoke on the cross and join together in singing the music of Taizé.*

# Upcoming Events



## Decorating of the Cross

**Saturday, April 16**

**11:00 AM on the front lawn of Murray FCC**

Join us as we adorn the cross with fresh flowers, in honor of Easter, celebrating the resurrection of Christ.

Please bring fresh flowers and greenery.

Text, call or email Rebecca Landolt to let her know you will be attending and what you plan to bring to contribute.

Rebecca Landolt

270-293-3155

c21rl@murray-ky.net



# Upcoming Events



## KY DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES **2022 SPRING CONFERENCE** WHEN WOMEN CONNECT...

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**DATE: APRIL 30, 2022**

**TIME: 10 AM – 2 PM (EST); 9 AM – 1 PM (CST)**

**LOCATION: FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM –  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN KENTUCKY**

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The KY Disciples Women's Spring Conference is embracing the theme **"When Women Connect..."** from the Just Women Bible Studies of Disciples Home Missions. As usual, we will begin with worship followed by four different workshops! In our workshops, we will educate ourselves more about racism, experience the healing sounds of a drumming circle, enjoy a virtual trip to Morocco and end the day with prayer, meditation and bible study. This is exciting! Mark your calendar! April 30<sup>th</sup>!

## Upcoming Events



**Christian Women's Fellowship  
Mother Child Banquet  
(for all women in the church!)  
Wednesday, May 4  
5:45 PM**

Program presented by Bobbi Raby

*A delicious meal of chicken tetrazzini, tossed salad, roll and desert will be served.*

Tickets are \$8 per person and must be purchased by April 26th. They may be purchased from Leah Hart, Ruth Daughaday, or Vicky Holton.

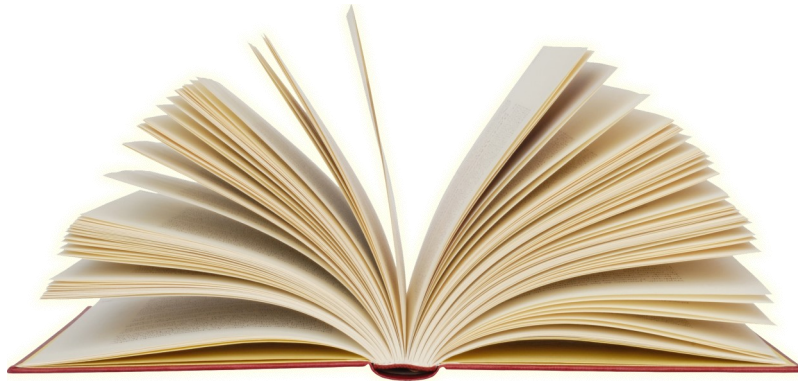
**Graduation Celebration  
Sunday, May 22, 2022  
Following Worship in the Fellowship Hall**

We look forward to honoring a number of graduates including Nina Natividad, Brenton Hall, Tamara Abo Al Haija, Zaid Abo Al Haija, and Katherine Hill. If you have a family member who is graduating, please contact the church office at [fccmurray@gmail.com](mailto:fccmurray@gmail.com) or 270-753-3824.

*Beverages and fried chicken will be available. Please bring a side dish to share!*

# Upcoming Events

## MIDWEEK 'VIRTUAL' LIVE GATHERING



**Most Tuesdays from 6-7:30 PM on Zoom**

*(Occasionally we will meet on another weekday instead. We have decided that, even though the church building now is open to small groups, we will continue to meet together on Zoom since it allows those who do not live in Murray to be able to attend.)*

**During our time together we will:**

- **Fellowship** *(as we update each other about our lives)*
- **Reflect on a piece of poetry that has spiritual or ethical import**  
*(to be emailed out earlier that day, but which need not have been read beforehand to participate)*
- **Deepen into a passage of scripture**  
*(sometimes a Psalm, or a lectionary passage that the sermon may be based on the following Sunday, or a scripture that is relevant to the time)*
- **Listen to some music**  
*(Over the months we have deepened into the music of Carrie Newcomer and Elaine Hagenberg)*
- **Share our Joys and Concerns**
- **Close with the Lord's Prayer**

***The Zoom link and writings will be emailed out the day that we will be meeting.***

# 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 on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm.

**April 12, 2022**

Hostess: June Vander Molen

**May 10, 2022**

## **Group II Meetings:**

Meets in the church Fellowship Hall on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

**April 18, 2022**

Hostess: Billie Burton

Program: Leah Hart

**May 16, 2022**

Ladies' Night Out

## **Mother – Child Banquet**

For all of women in the church

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 5:45 PM**

**\*No meetings June - August**

# 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

**January:** The Far West Men's group met at the Murray First Christian Church at 7pm.

We had a wonderful meal with home made desserts made by Terry Hart (Pecan Pie and Angel Food Cake)

There were 20 persons in attendance with four churches represented.

We collected \$197 (\$116 for the Camp and \$81 for the Christian Care Communities). Our Camp Balance is now \$4,482.57.

Rev. Milton West (Mayfield First) gave the program and told us all about the events that transpired in Mayfield, KY in December and some of their challenges going forward.

Many thanks to Terry Hart, Mike Holton, Larry Jackson, Ruth Ragovin and John King for helping to make this event happen.

**February:** the Far Western KY Men met at the Bardwell Christian Church for a meal and a meeting.

There were 40 in attendance, the largest gathering that we have had since I have been keeping records. Thank you to all that were able to attend. A collection was taken up for the Men's KBY Fund (\$197) and the Christian Care Communities (\$145). Our new total for the Men's KBY Checking account is \$4,679.57.

We were treated to a meal of Baby Back Ribs with all the trimmings! It was delicious!

Our West Area Minister (Rachel Nance Woehler) and our New Camp Manager (Dee Moore Wells) were in attendance. Dee's husband, AL, was also there. Rachel and Dee brought us up to date about the progress at the Camp. With the addition of the new Cabins our camp will be moving from a summer camp to a year round facility. There are still lots of things that need to be done before the summer. This year's camp work day and dedication will be April 23rd. There is a wish list of things needed and things to be done on the West Area Web Page, or if you are not able to find that you can reach out to Dee at [deemwells@gmail.com](mailto:deemwells@gmail.com)

We also heard about the history of the Bardwell Church, the West Area Ski Thing and opportunities to help in the recovery from the Dec. Storm.

## The Far West Christian Men's group will meet

**April 19, 7PM:** Bethel Christian Church — 12245 Woodville Rd. Kevil, KY 42053

**May 17, 7PM:** Maxon Christian Church— 7920 Cairo Rd. Paducah, KY 42086

**June 21, 7PM:** Paducah Christian Church— 415 Audubon Dr. Paducah, KY 42001

# Disciples Men's Fellowship

The Disciple Men's Fellowship hosted the Far West Men's Gathering at our church in January, with about twenty people present. Terry Hart got delicious food from Fit Meals Murray. Dan McKeel presided. Rev. Milton West gave a presentation on the Mayfield church rebuilding efforts.



# Financial Giving

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR January		
	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>	\$ 16,256.77	\$ 10,236.35
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 14,689.93	\$ 10,963.13
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 1,566.84	\$ (726.78)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR February		
	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>	\$ 10,791.37	\$ 10,032.81
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 9,691.61	\$ 12,076.30
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 1,099.76	\$ (2,043.49)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR Jan & Feb		
	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>	\$ 27,048.14	\$ 20,269.16
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 24,381.54	\$ 23,039.43
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 2,666.60	\$ (2,770.27)

## 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

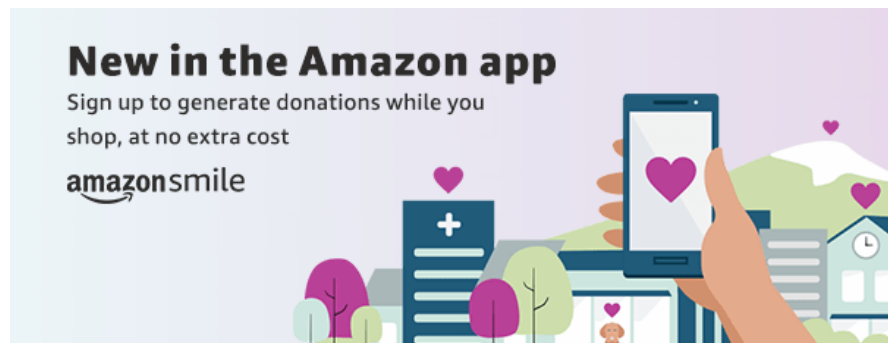


# FINANACIAL GIVING

## Community Rewards Programs



Remember, always start at [smile.amazon.com](https://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!

### April

2	Rhonda Roso	15	Vicky Holton
3	DeeAnna Natividad Vaughn		Sharon Rue
5	April McKeel	20	Lily Sanchez
8	Marty Dunham	24	Kim White
9	Ron Gray	26	Russ Ragovin
12	Hastings Hume	29	Easton Looney
	Nina Natividad		Grayson Looney



### June

### May

2	Claire Gray	2	Rasha Khalil		
5	Patsy Tracy	4	Judy Hill		
6	Chelsea Bolen	6	Gary White, Sr.	19	Rita Daughaday
	Ryan Ferguson	7	Meagan Hart	22	Anita Cole-Paschall
10	Jim Stickler	10	Martin Tracy		Lisa Wilson
12	June Vander Molen		Ann Thornton	24	Lynda Chaney
14	Vicki Singleton	11	Joe Chaney	25	Rachel Ragovin
17	Bobbie Raby		Roger Miller	29	Lisa Kindall
	Janet Schell	13	Keisa Bennett	30	Elijah Burkeen
18	Carmen Garland		Alan Chase		Doris Cella
19	Amelia Donnelly	14	Emily Zimmerman		
20	Martha Chamberlain	15	Crystal Dillard		
21	Brentley Bennett		John King		
	Bret Looney	16	Tatum Nichols		
23	Billie Burton	17	Ron Cella		
29	Donna Cathey	19	Judy Phelps		
	Milo Dillard		Rita Daughaday		
30	Chip Gray				

## Happy Anniversary!

### April

7 Mike & Vicky Holton

### May

4 Dwight & Allison Willis  
18 Tim & Tory Daughrity  
31 Fulton & Meagan Hart

### June

3 Joe & Lynda Chaney  
4 John & Patsy King  
6 Gary & Krista Crass  
11 Mike & Lyn Ryan



# Joys and Thanksgivings

## In Appreciation of Janet Finch

*Many thanks to Janet Finch for sharing her gift of music with us!*

*Janet has most graciously agreed to play for us two or three Sundays a month and she already has begun practicing with the Chancel Choir. We also greatly appreciate that on the Sundays that she will be away that she has reached out to Dr. Lucia Unrau and Robert Arneson to fill in. As you read the article below that we asked Janet to write introducing herself, you will see that not only did God answer our prayers but God answered them abundantly!*

Playing the piano at First Christian Church is a joy to my heart. Each Sunday that I play, I have the opportunity to share something that is so dear to my heart, with a congregation that I have come to love. Before each service, I am in prayer, asking The Lord to take that which is in my heart, let it flow through my fingers, and into the hearts of those listening so that they may be drawn to God.

Growing up in Columbus, Ohio: My father was a great musical inspiration in my life. He was a child prodigy and had a life full of great experiences. His stories of world travel, playing with the big bands, making movies with Hollywood stars, and his times with notables such as Walt Disney and John Steinbeck, inspired big dreams of my own.

Early in life, the piano became my passion and, at age 7, I began formal study. It was at age 15, that I began piano study at Otterbein College with the Chairman of the Piano Department. My practice schedule became more intense and I was invited to perform in recitals at the college. It was at this time that I began teaching piano privately, although that wasn't what I really wanted to do with my life. I loved performance, and said "yes" to every opportunity that came along.

Becoming a Believer: It was in my teen years that God began to bring other Believers alongside me. I had the desire to know God, began reading my Bible and attending church on my own. My mother worked full-time, but she always had Christian families watch over me while she was away. They were kind to include me when attending church and in their church youth group activities. I saw their joy, goodness, and God's design for family life.

Upon high school graduation, I attended The Ohio State University majoring in Piano Performance. I also discovered that I loved accompanying singers. One opera professor became a mentor to me and invited me to her Summer program in Graz, Austria. The faculty was comprised of well-known opera singers from the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. I had the privilege of studying piano, opera coaching, and accompanying with the vocal coach for the Metropolitan Opera that Summer.

It was at OSU, and at age 19, that I made a commitment to Christ, was involved with campus ministry, weekly Bible study, and attended church each Sunday. My closest circle of friends were committed to Christ and together we grew as Christians as well as musicians. I stayed busy accompanying soloists and also had a growing private piano studio, although that wasn't what I wanted to do with my life.

# Joys and Thanksgivings

## In Appreciation of Janet Finch

My experience at OSU helped me set professional goals for the future, shape my work ethic, and build personal character. It was in my third year at OSU that the Chairman of the Piano Department at The University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music was invited as a guest artist. He was a specialist in the piano works of Debussy and Chopin and I loved his playing. As a young student I wanted to attend college at CCM. I knew that was the professor with whom I wanted to study. I carried that dream into the future for the next 19 years.

After graduation from OSU, a church friend named "Harry" told me he had someone he wanted me to meet. His best friend was named Monte Finch. At that time, I was interested in someone else, and Monte Finch was 6 hours away in medical school. Harry talked to Monte about meeting "this girl" and his response went something like "no, not after that last girl you fixed me up with-" We eventually did meet and four years later were married. Harry was the best man.

This May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate 40 years together. I could not have asked for a greater blessing and life partner than Monte. We both attended OSU for undergraduate school and, as I look back, I see the touch points that only God could have provided for us.

After medical school, internship, residency, and fellowship, we settled in Murray, Kentucky to raise our two toddlers. We attended church regularly. I continued to play the piano for every opportunity which came my way, and also taught private piano lessons.

When our children were older, I began intense piano study again. I tried different universities, but my dream of attending the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati dominated, and I soon realized that nothing would ever do in its place. I contacted the Chairman of the Piano Department and, after 19 years, began study in Cincinnati. Each week I drove 11 hours round trip for one piano lesson. I worked with him one year to prepare my graduate school audition at CCM. At the next round of auditions, I played for their world-renowned artist-piano faculty. It was a daunting experience for a middle-aged housewife from Murray, Kentucky, but there was no backing out. That year they chose 10 pianists from the world, two of whom were from the United States. God answered my prayer, and I was accepted. My second year, I received a graduate assistantship and full scholarship, was also hired to teach in the CCM Preparatory Division working with gifted and talented young people, and also in the Continuing Education Division for adults who wanted to study piano. I worked 19 hours a day to complete my studies, teaching, and practicing each day. When I had completed all of my Master's requirements, the Dean gave me permission to begin doctoral level classes and begin a dissertation. The Lord knew that I had an interest in writing and I began doing large research projects on how our brains learn music. As a result, three of my research projects were published in *Clavier Companion Magazine*. I was also invited to be part of The National Committee on Adult Learning which researches and gives presentations nation-wide on adult piano study. It was more than I ever prayed for-

Eventually, God began to close the door on my time at CCM. I was needed at home as a wife and mother. It was a hard transition for me, and I stopped practicing. I devoted long hours to prayer, Bible study, and women's ministry. It was a time of grieving, and a time of God showing me who HE wanted me to be. I had to lay down everything that I wanted for myself, and surrender to His Perfect Will.

# Joys and Thanksgivings

## In Appreciation of Janet Finch

Ten years have passed since my time at CCM and I'm now in a new season of my life. I'm back to practicing the piano once again. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve at First Christian Church. And now 50 years later, I am still teaching private piano lessons. I loved teaching at the college level, however, God kept bringing private teaching back to me, and now I'm thankful He did. When possible, I still study piano and piano pedagogy in Austria in my summers. God has been faithful to fill the gaps of things I wanted to do but couldn't before.

Our two children are now grown, and we've added two little granddaughters to our family. Our daughter Stephanie is age 35, an OSHA Specialist in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and serves as the Director of Safety and Development for an agency who cleans up hazardous waste for the government. Our son Randy is age 34, and a Park Ranger. He recently accepted a position at Yellowstone National Park. He reports in on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

This is a new season of life which is no longer about my goals and dreams, but about coming alongside others, discipleship, encouragement, and being a "Mary" who loved to listen to The Lord.

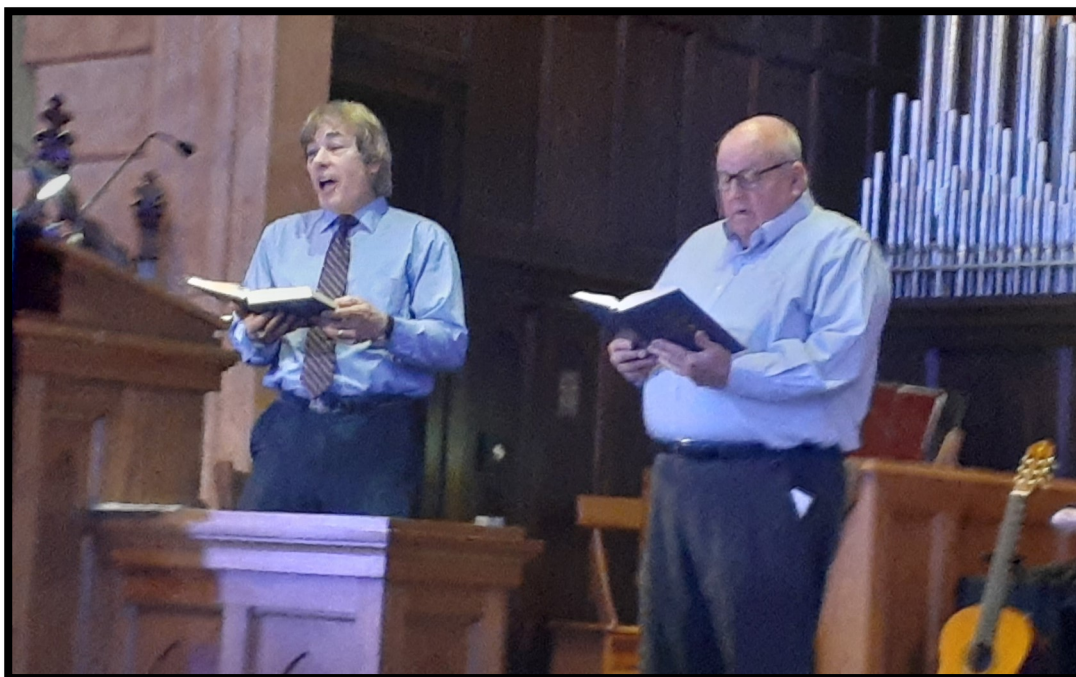


# Joys and Thanksgivings

## Special Music shared during worship



It was such a joy to have **Mark Dycus** and **Brent Webster** for their classical guitar prelude and special music on Sunday, January 9.



Many thanks to **Mark Dycus** and **Terry Hart** for their beautiful singing of “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” on Sunday February, 6 and to Judy Hill for accompanying them on the piano!

# Joys and Thanksgivings

*Below contains just a partial list of the accomplishments 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!*

Congratulations to **Erica Gray and her academic team at Calloway County High School**, who earned their 12th consecutive KAAC Governor's Cup District Championship on Saturday, January 22nd, 2022. Then on January 28, they earned Runners-up at the 2022 WKAA President's Cup Tournament held on the Paducah regional campus of MSU. They also won First Place over all in the Department of Energy's Regional Science Bowl and earned an all-expense paid trip to the National Science Bowl in Washington D.C.

**Milo Dillard** was named student of the month in February!

**Leah Hughes** won first place in composition at the Governor's Cup Academic Team Competition on February 12th! She then moved on to place first in the region!

Congratulations to **Alyssa Daugherty**, for winning the Post and District VFW Voices of Democracy Speech Contest. She also placed 4th at the state level. More congratulations for her acceptance into the Governor's Scholars Program this summer!

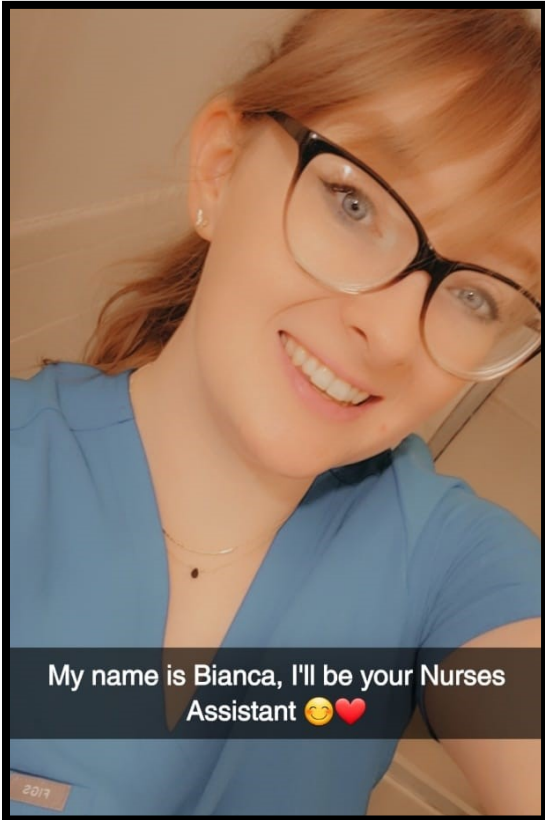
Congratulations to **Tory Daugherty**, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Henry County Medical Center, Paris, TN. HCMC recently received the Gold Award for Best Service Line Campaign for its behavioral health campaign "SilencetheShameTN " which has been nationally recognized for excellence.

Congratulations to **Rasha Khalil**, who has been named the outstanding teacher in the OSH department at MSU!

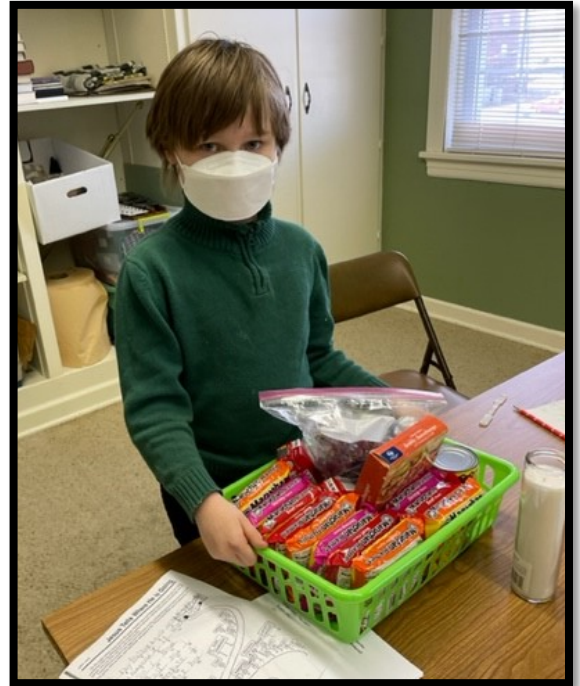


Congratulations to **Amberlyn Hall**, who received an award at the CCHS Cheer Banquet for keeping a 3.5 and above GPA all season. Grandmother Nancy says that "this little turtle has finally gotten out of her shell!"

# Joys and Thanksgivings



Congratulations to **Bianca Youngman**, who is now a Nurses Assistant at the hospital!



**Sam** is back! It was wonderful to have the **Willis family** back in worship on March 27, for the first time since the pandemic closed our doors in March of 2020!



It was great to have the children back in Sunday School on March 6. Their teacher Rebecca Landolt took the children on a tour of the sanctuary to talk about the symbols on our beautiful stained glass windows.



# Joys and Thanksgivings



Many thanks to our West Area Minister, **Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler**, who brought a well researched and inspirational message on Sunday, Feb 27. She based her message on the book of Nehemiah and, like the Israelites of old who were called to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, she challenged each of us to consider which brick God is calling us to lay in the new post pandemic walls of the rebuilding we must do in our church, community, and world. We also were reminded that the way our congregation can help when disaster strikes around the world (tornados in our area, the stream of refugees pouring out of Ukraine into other countries) is by giving to the Week of Compassion. You may write your checks out to "First Christian Church" with "Week of Compassion" in the memo line.



*Above:* **Deane Renshaw** is using her gift of music by playing the piano during Sunday morning worship at Hickory Woods.

*Below:* Congratulations to Krista and Gary Crass on the birth of their grandson **Austin Hayes Gonzales** on March 30 to Katherine and Mike Gonzalez in TX. He is a beautiful baby, entering the world weighing 8lbs 11oz and 23" long.



*Right:* **Baby Grayson** was at church for the first time on Palm Sunday with his grandmother Judy Phelps!





# Joys and Thanksgivings

## THANK YOU NOTES

### February 2022

*We want to thank all of you who provided meals over the past three weeks. We enjoyed the variety of foods and got multiple meals from everything. It is so special being part of such a loving group of Christians.*

*~Doug and June Vander Molen*

### March 2022

*“Dear Pastor Ruth, Church Family, and Friends,  
It was wonderful to be able to share with you so many wonderful moments. I thank you with all my heart for the loving welcoming which gives me so much peace and love. I must go to my country, but I will come back if God wants me to. A big hug for everyone and I wish you the best. See you soon! Nora*

*Dear FCC Congregation,*

*Judy Lyle and Ann Thornton came by my office today for a chat before I leave town tomorrow. They presented me with a most beautiful card with an incredibly generous gift from many of you. I couldn't wait until we got back to let you know how very grateful I am to all of you who contributed. It is sure to be a blessing in multiple ways as we enjoy our time relaxing and adventuring in St. John!*

*Truly, thank you!*

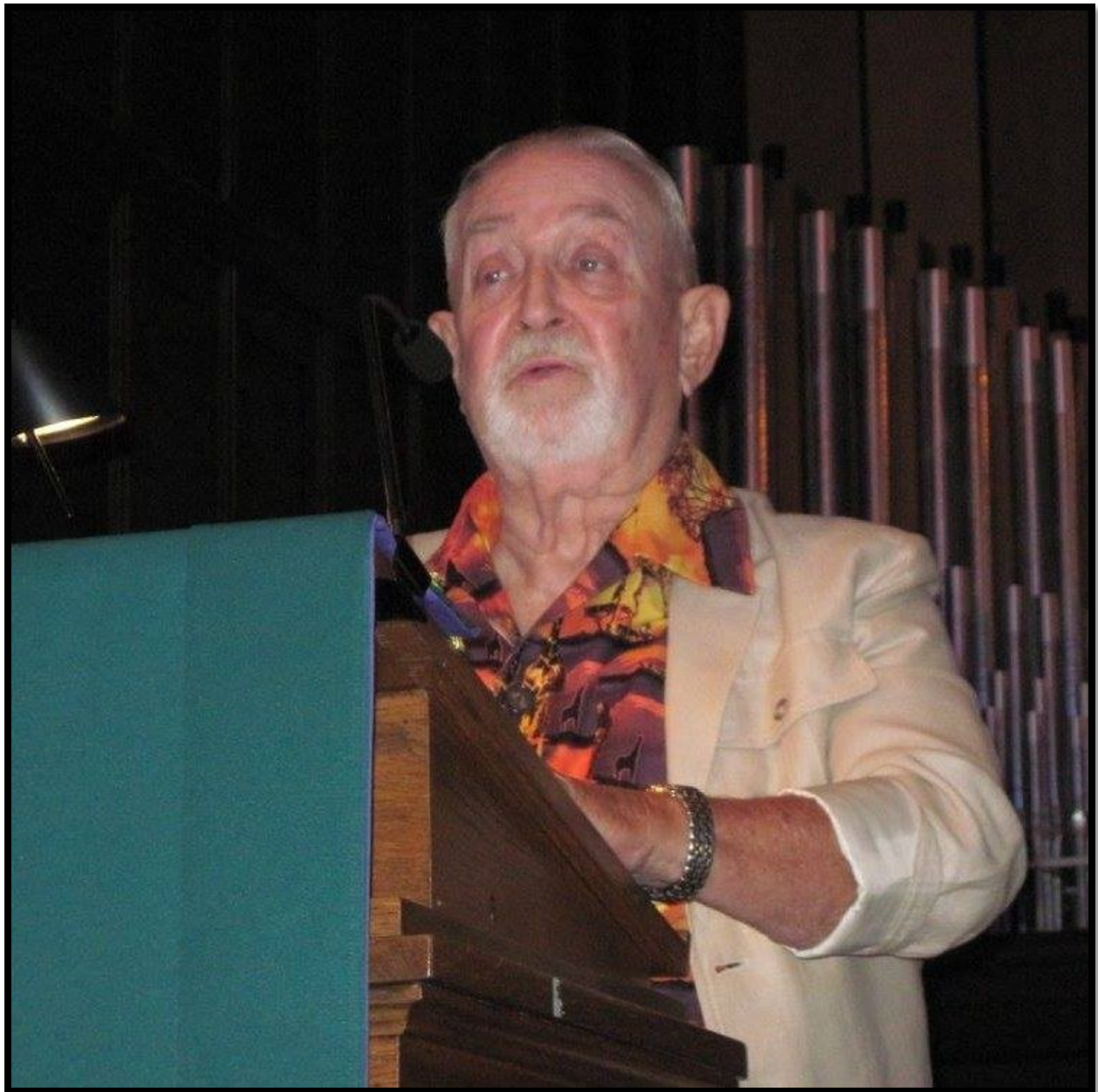
*Katelyn Crane*

*Administrative Assistant*



## CONDOLENCES

Our beloved congregant, Tony Van Dyke, took his final breath on earth and crossed over into eternity at around 1 PM on Sunday, February 13, 2022, at the hospital in Huntington, TN, with his wife Charlotte and other family members at his side. His body could not withstand the assault of Covid on top of his struggles with ulcerative colitis, for which he had been in a rehab unit for several weeks. There was a congregation- and family- only Memorial Service during our worship celebration on Sunday, February 20. Minister of Music, Mark Dycus, to whom Tony was very close, gave a beautiful eulogy.



# Be in prayer for...



- Aimee Bailee
- Patricia Binford
- Billie Burton
- Deborah Campbell
- Marcus Cavitt
- Noah Cavitt
- Teresa Dycus Dowdy
- Phyllis Duckworth
- Judy and Dave Eldredge
- Brenton Hall
- Phyllis Huggins
- Glenn Hughes
- Marsha Jacobs
- Loretta Jobs
- Mike Kerrick
- Lisa Kindall
- John King
- Patsy King
- Ruth King
- Alexandra Lynn
- Paula Marvin
- Bob and Celeste McAllister
- Anna McCurdy
- Eli McKeel
- Dianne and Roger Miller
- Landon Morgan
- Kathy Pasco
- Rob Pennington
- Aaron Perkins
- Judy Phelps
- McKenna Phelps
- Bobbie Raby
- Russell Reid
- Deane Renshaw
- Bill Roberts

- Marge and Pat Roy
- Randy Rue
- Sharon Russell
- Andrew Schultz
- Sharon Stilglic
- David Tamaren
- Michele Tamaren
- Scott Tamaren
- Ann Thornton
- Will Treadway
- Jackie Underwood
- Doug Vander Molen
- Charlotte Van Dyke
- Danny Warren
- Cindy Rue Wimbley
- Gary White
- Sonja Whitener
- Allison and Dwight Willis
- Linda Wilson
- Bianca Youngman

# Outreach

## A report by: Melanie Dawson

During the months of January through March 2022, our church participated in the following outreach efforts:

Contributed money (\$250) to **Laundry Love** for the month of January. Due to COVID, we no longer work at the laundry mat but Iwash 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.

A check was sent to **Week of Compassion** in December for \$1798.49. After receiving many more donations, a check was sent in March for \$2815 designated to **Week of Compassion-West Kentucky tornado recovery efforts**.

The **Need Line Backpack program** supplies lunch sacks filled with food items on weekends for children who are food insecure. This year FCC filled 550 sacks to cover the last two weeks of February. Need Line coordinates this program, and the sacks were delivered there to be taken to preschool, kindergarten, and elementary children in the Murray and Calloway school systems. Thank you to all who made donations and/or gave their time to assemble and deliver the sacks; and a special thank you to David Robinson. See photos on page 31.

At the January Board meeting it was voted to transfer \$7,000 from cash account or reserve to the designated Outreach account. In March, \$5,000 of that money was sent to the **Disciples Mission Fund** in support of our national programs.

**Soup and Bread Fundraiser** on 2/27/22 raised over \$700 to go into our **Laundry Love** account. We want to thank Judy Lyle, Celeste McAllister, Ann Thornton and Judy Nichols for organizing this event.

**Soup and Bread Fundraiser** on 3/27/22 raised over \$500 to go towards next year's **Need Line Backpack program**. Thanks to Judy Lyle, Ann Thornton, Terry Hart, Pastor Ruth, Doris Cella and Ann's niece Nancy for all they did.

# Outreach

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.

## **Alternative Gifts Catalog** (in the narthex)

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.

## **Main Street Youth**

People may bring individually wrapped snacks for the children in their after school Program and place them in the bin at the back of the church.

Upcoming activities:

Contribute money (\$250) to **Laundry Love** for the month of May.

Collect change for **Life House- Baby Bottle Campaign**. Handed out on Mother's Day and to be returned on Father's Day.

Many thanks to **Don Bennett** for fixing the Blessing Box! The right door was about to come off. Don fixed the top right hinge, and the doors are working well now!



# 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 (270) 753-3824 or HOPE CALLOWAY (270) 761-6802

111 North 5th Street

629 Broad Street



*Many thanks to **Rebecca Landolt** for organizing this important effort!*

# Previous Events

## Back Pack Program Assembly & Delivery: February 2, 2022

“The Backpack Sack program supplies lunch sacks filled with food items on weekends for children who are food insecure. This year FCC filled 550 sacks to cover the last 2 weeks of February. Need Line coordinates this program, and the sacks were delivered there to be taken to preschool, kindergarten, and elementary children in the Murray and Calloway school systems.” ~Teresa Nixon

Thank you to all who made donations and/or gave their time to assemble and deliver the sacks; and a special thank you to David Robinson. Many thanks to **Teresa Nixon** and **David Robinson** for all their hard work in purchasing and gathering the items for the Need Line Back Pack program in our fellowship hall. Special thanks to **Teresa Nixon, Bobbie Raby, Judy Lyle, Melanie Dawson,** and **Ann Thornton** who hurried to the church one winter afternoon to assemble them into bags to put into kids backpacks, and **Bradley Dawson** who delivered them to Need Line. This all was done in haste to get them to Need Line before the winter storm set in.



# Previous Events

March 2, 2022



*Many thanks to everyone who made our Ash Wednesday Service so meaningful as we began our 40-day Lenten journey to the cross together. We enjoyed having a number of Murray Christian Fellowship students join us, including their women's minister Monica West, who was a reader, along with Claire Gray and Mark Dycus.*



# Previous Events

## Soup & Bread Fundraisers– February 27 & March 27, 2022

Two fundraisers were held to benefit the Need Line Back Pack Program and Laundry Love in 2023. The first was put on in February by Judy Lyle, Celeste McAllister, Ann Thornton, and Judy Nichols. Not only were the soups (potato, vegetable beef, chili) and Ann's homemade yeast rolls delicious but they also raised over \$700 for Laundry Love! That is a record setter for such a fundraiser. The second fundraiser was held March 27th and put on by Judy Lyle, Ann Thornton, Terry Hart, Pastor Ruth, Doris Cella, and Ann's niece Nancy. This event raised over \$500 for Need Line's Backpack Program. Together the fundraisers raised over \$1,200 total!! Thank you to everyone who made these events possible; making soup and bread, helping distribute, purchasing a meal and spreading the word.



# Previous Events

## Farewell Celebration for Sharon Rue—Sunday, March 20, 2022



We are so grateful that we were able to spend some time with Sharon Rue before her move back to Casey, IL to be closer to family. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the reception we had for her after worship on Sunday, March, 20. Sharon's new address is as follows: 6 N.E. Third St., Casey, IL 62420

Sharon will be greatly missed!



# Previous Events

## Farewell Celebration for Sharon Rue—Sunday, March 20, 2022



Thank you to all who contributed to the quilt being made for Sharon and a special thank you to Nancy Dycus for coming up with the idea & sewing all the touching pieces from our congregants together!

# Past Events

## SPRING SPIRITUAL RETREAT 2022

### “Writing an Ethical Will”

**Saturday, April 9, 2022**

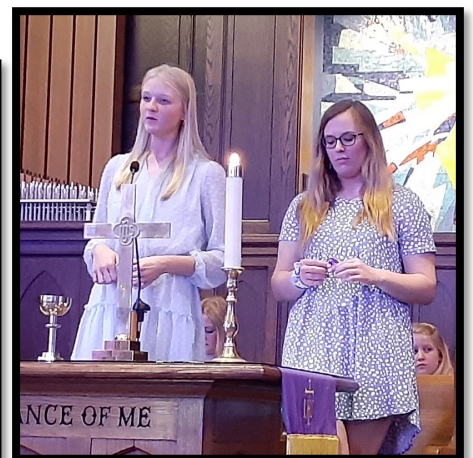
Pastor Ruth led a retreat on the topic of "Writing an Ethical Will" at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya on Saturday, April 9, with thirteen participants. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, worship, and learning about this ancient spiritual practice from the Jewish tradition in which one creates a document outlining one's spiritual and ethical legacy that includes beliefs, values, lessons learned, stories from the past, hopes for the future and more. All had the opportunity to begin work on their ethical wills. We hope to begin meeting every few months to share our writings and encourage each other to move forward. Pastor Ruth is willing to do another workshop on this topic for others who might want to learn more about this and begin writing one of their own. We also had the opportunity to spend some time with our new camp director, Rev. Dee Moore Wells (whom Pastor Ruth has known for at least 25 years) and her husband Al Wells, who gave us a tour of the camp following our retreat. It looks like a construction site with heavy equipment and 8 FEMA buildings that are going to be turned into heated and air conditioned cabins as we now turn KBY into a year-round camp. We will need all the help we can get on our Spring Work Day and Cabin Dedication on Saturday April 23, to get our camp ready for the summer season. See page 4 for more information on that!



# Past Events

## Palm / Passion Sunday Celebration Sunday, April 10, 2022

Many thanks to everyone who made Palm Sunday so special! Vicky Holton and Betty McCord decorated the fellowship hall so beautifully for our Palm Sunday breakfast! Rebecca Landolt and June Vander Molen (and all the parents!) worked with our children and youth to present us with a meaningful Sunday morning worship experience. Leah Hughes opened up our Sunday morning worship by playing the chimes and a prelude on the organ. Laurel Gray and Maya Hughes brought the light of Christ into the sanctuary, following which Laurel led us in a Call to Worship. After Sam Willis read the Palm Sunday story from Matthew 21:1-11, the children processed with palms as the congregation sang "All Glory, Laud, and Honor". Alyssa Daugherty and Emily Dawson presided over the communion table. Amberlyn Hall and Nina Natividad brought beautiful special music as they sang the special Palm Sunday song "Lo, He Comes." The following children brought four interactive Passion Week stories serving as readers and doing sound effects as part of the chorus: Mira and Lily Kinsley, Leah and Maya Hughes, Claire and Laurel Gray, Sam Willis, Blake Morris. Alyssa Daugherty brought the closing benediction, followed by Leah's postlude. Everyone did an outstanding job! The service was made even more sacred by the incredible organ special music brought by Dr. Lucia Unrau. Following worship the children enjoyed an Easter Egg hunt in the Christian education building. Thanks to Xavier Mathis, June Vander Molen, David Robinson, and Allison Willis for hiding all the many Easter eggs! Thanks to Jean Bennett for purchasing the palms that will be used to decorate for our Biblical Foods Meal on Maundy Thursday and then put away to be burned to create the ashes for the 2023 Ash Wednesday service.



# Past Events

## Palm / Passion Sunday Celebration Sunday, April 10, 2022

