



First Christian Church

Church Life



May/June 2020

Volume 72—Issue 2

From Pastor Ruth ...

Dear Church Family and Friends,

I just looked over our last edition of Church Life that came out two months ago and saw all the many activities we were looking forward to at the church. We had just begun our “Mental Health Awareness” emphasis and enjoyed two incredibly informative gatherings where we discussed Janice Morgan’s excellent book *Suspended Sentence*. Films devoted to this topic had been planned along with three Wednesday Night Live gatherings. Nancy Dycus had just launched her new ROK ministry. I had completed a baptism class and was about to begin discussions with four young people about setting a date for this important day in their lives. People had signed up to donate items, crafts, meals, and baked goods for the MKY Cares Auction and a number of those things had been delivered to the church. A group from our church had attended a VBS training to prepare for this summer’s joint venture with New Life Christian Church. Our Faith and Food group was about to begin discussing a new book. We had just moved into the season of Lent and had enjoyed a delicious Lenten Soup and Bread Meal before going into our sanctuary to participate in a well-attended Ash Wednesday service that our youth helped to oversee. I had begun a five-part Lenten sermon series on the Five Love Languages. The choir was working on their Easter Cantata. The youth were looking forward to spending a weekend up at Camp KBY. We were looking forward to Maundy Thursday, the Palm Sunday fellowship breakfast, the Children’s Lenten and Easter party, Easter Sunday, our Mother-Child Banquet, celebrating our graduates and so much more.

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First Christian Church

111 North Fifth Street

Murray, KY 42071

Sunday Worship Services:

9:30 AM— Sunday School

10:30 AM—Worship Service

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday,
10AM—2PM

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Main:

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I had gone away to the mountains in Tennessee on a week-long working retreat to prepare for my Spring Spiritual Retreat on Celtic Christian Spirituality and returned on March 12 eager to facilitate a gathering on this topic up at Camp Kum Ba Ya. I was about to return a call from our former interim youth minister, Joseph Roso and his fiancée, Kristin, about finalizing their wedding service. Our Outreach Committee was ready to host Laundry Love. In short, we were all raring to go!

Instead of being able to move forward with any of these anticipated events, the Covid-19 pandemic led to the closing of our beautiful sanctuary and building to all in-person activities beginning on Monday, March 16. From that moment our activities have either been cancelled, postponed, or, through a series of trial and error (and many blips along the way), moved online with a mid-week Zoom gathering, sermons being emailed out, and preached live via Facebook Live, with Donnie posting videos of himself playing some of our favorite hymns on our church's Facebook page, and the congregation connecting on the phone, Facebook, Instagram, texts, email, and other online methods. The only time we sort of gather in a physical sense is at noon on Sundays when we sit in our cars and listen to a beautiful carillon concert. How wonderful it is to see the beautiful faces of congregants (from at least a six-foot distance) through the windows of your cars and to be able to wave and have short conversations! That has become the highlight of my week!

Of course, all this has been somewhat of a steep learning curve for a Boomer like me, who has never been comfortable with technology and actually used a flip phone until about a month ago. I also struggle with a phobia about being filmed. Not to mention being blindsided by the pandemic, even though I should have known better because for months it had widespread coverage in all three of the newspapers I regularly read. In light of this, I posted on Facebook shortly after we closed the church building (borrowed from someone else):

Dear Everybody—Since I've NOT pastored people thru a pandemic before, I don't know all the answers. But I'm paying attention to science and praying for wisdom. Together, we'll take courage, be patient, consider the least of these & press onward while loving our neighbors. Your Pastor. P.S. WASH YOUR HANDS!!!!

This really was the first time in my life that I couldn't ask for advice based on experience from our oldest members or ministers. No one still living has experienced a pandemic like this. So we're all trying to innovate and imagine the way into the future together as we listen to our leaders, respect science, pray for wisdom, have faith in God, and seek to live in accordance with the teachings of Jesus to love our neighbor as ourselves. That is why we take seriously that we are to physically distance ourselves from others, wear masks in public, and do everything we can to keep ourselves and others safe, while also being attentive to the devastating economic impact this is having on so many people. This, by the way, is not a time to engage in any kind of partisan politics but rather for us to understand that we are all on the same team engaged in a war against the common enemy of Covid-19. So please try and be kind and considerate in speech and action (and social media posts), realizing how anxious everyone is about both their health and their livelihoods. I believe we can walk and chew gum at the same time, namely both be concerned about keeping people healthy and be concerned about those who have been impacted economically by this crisis. Our Christian hearts are big enough to hold both.

Initially, I panicked about certain ministerial tasks since I had no knowledge of how to produce an online sermon or how to facilitate a Zoom gathering. I was helped by our Director of Communications, Debbie Batteiger, and the amazing entrepreneurial high school junior Ellen Blalock, who started her own business training people and organizations to host virtual meetings through Zoom. I have a long way to go but they both have helped me gain important skills and confidence. While I realize that simply doing a Facebook Live sermon in my office using my laptop may appear primitive in comparison to other churches who either have long been putting their services online or those who have hired professional videographers, it is what works for us. When I start to feel insecure about whether my low tech awkward nerdy self and presentations (that are designed to be a combination of Sunday School and message all in one) are good enough, I go back and reread what my Quaker friend and colleague Rev. Scott Wagoner wrote:

Churches / Meetings and Pastors, be comfortable in your own skin and church culture. Do what feels right for you ... high-tech, low-tech, or no-tech. Don't feel guilty if you're not doing it like the other church/meeting down the road or up the road or in the next city or on the other side of the country. We're all trying to figure this out. Let's be gentle with one another. The key word is "collaboration" not "competition." Life isn't always an "either/or." Some times it's a "both/and." Experiment. Be creative. Stay with what you know if that's what works. Give up "snarky" for Lent. We're all in this together.

I find Scott's words to be tremendously reassuring as I hope you will also. So, for the time being, it's going to continue to be just me (and sometimes Russ and me) in my office on Facebook Live and you wherever you are (perhaps in your PJs, with your coffee, curled up on your sofas, with the option to mute me or just turn it off!) and, most importantly, the Holy Spirit that surrounds us whether we are together in person or not.

Thanks to all of you for being so understanding and helpful through all of this. I feel that we are #TeamFccMurray! I appreciate all the many ways you have helped since our church building has closed to activities: all of you who delivered at-home worship kits; those of you who continue to maintain the building and the property (Dan McKeel and Rob Clause are out taking care of the lawn many evenings); Rob Clause and Terry Hart for dealing with the clean-up and repair of the stain glass window that was shattered during the strong storm that came through a few weeks ago; Larry Jackson for repairing and painting the walls of one of the church narthexes; the extra deep cleaning that Aimee Bailey is doing; the frequent expressions of assurance and appreciation; the hard work of our Stewardship Finance Committee along with Debbie Batteiger to put an online giving option in place; the many ways you continue to encourage and connect with each other through notes, phone calls, texts, emails, messages; your continued financial support of our ministry here during a time of economic hardship; those who have offered to sew face masks; those who have kept the blessing box stocked; those who, after telling me that you are ready at the drop of a hat to bring food to those who are hungry or need help otherwise, have followed through immediately when need arose; the readiness of so many to shop and deliver food to those who can't get out; those who drop off on the doorsteps of congregants who aren't on the internet the weekly sermon and updates; and, most importantly, all the prayers you are lifting for your families, church family, our community, state, nation, and world. Thank you also for all the imaginative suggestions for continuing to be church: taking communion at 11 on Sundays in our homes; the carillon concert every Sunday at noon; decorating the cross on our front lawn for Easter; signs recognizing our graduates on our church's lawn; other ideas for how to stay connected. We truly are such a strong, vibrant, loving, and creative congregation!

We will continue to be guided through the pandemic in Kentucky by a fellow member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), namely our wonderful Governor Andy Beshear (AKA "Pastor Andy"), who is making wise and compassionate decisions informed by science and the health department, as he also is cognizant of and attentive to the effects that the stay at home orders are having on businesses and the economy. Our West Area office also is making difficult and carefully considered decisions about upcoming events, knowing that our primary consideration must be people's health and safety. Therefore, there will not be summer camp at KBY.

This summer's youth mission trip to Memphis will instead take place next summer. This year's Vacation Bible School also has been cancelled. As a congregation we will move forward cautiously and will only reopen when it is safe to do so. While the date of May 20 has been given by our Governor as a possibility for churches to begin reopening, the virus still is dictating when this will be and I believe that it may be much later than this. Likely our return to in person worship will take place in gradual phases as we begin with careful sanitizing and physical distancing in our sanctuary without passing communion or the offering plate as, over time, we begin to hold worship services like the ones we had before the pandemic. Since the next edition of Church Life will not come out until July, I encourage you to please read our weekly Tuesday emails where we will be keeping you informed of decisions as we move forward.

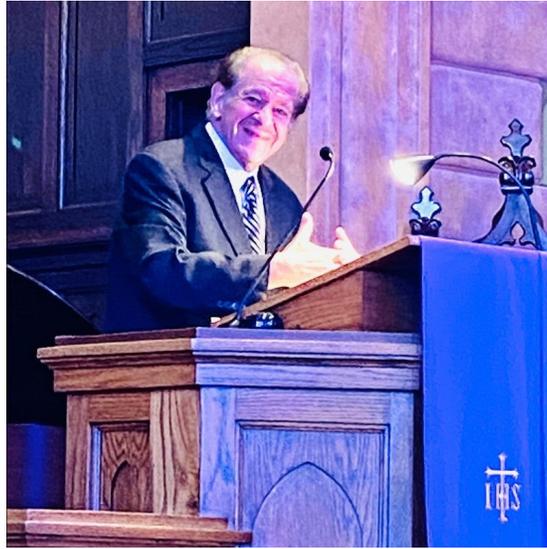
As difficult as this is, as a congregation we should remember that the church has never been about a building (although we all will certainly rejoice when we can gather again in our beautiful sanctuary and use our facility for gatherings) but it is about a people reaching out in Christian love and service as we faithfully attempt to follow the teachings of Jesus and to strengthen the lives of those around us. There are so many ways we can be the Church! Let's embrace this opportunity to realize and enact these, even while staying healthy at home during a pandemic. Remember also when we miss being able to be with one another in the sanctuary that, historically, Sabbath was more about a sacred time than it was about a sacred space. I encourage you to keep your Sabbath time holy as you find ways to settle into God's holy and loving embrace as you gently and quiet your mind and heart, remembering that great is God's faithfulness!

Please also know how much I love each and every one of you. I miss seeing your beautiful faces in worship or when I go to visit you in your assisted living facilities or homes. The saying that "distance makes the heart grow fonder" definitely has taken on a whole new meaning. I can't wait to be able to see you again! Until then go #TeamFccMurray!

In Christian Love and Service,

Pastor Ruth

Joys and Thanksgivings



Thank you to **Rev. Russ Ragovin** for filling the pulpit on Sunday, March 8!



Congratulations to Krista and Gary Crass on the birth of their beautiful granddaughter, **Rylee Jo Gonzalez** (photo above), who was born at Ascension Seton Hospital in Austin, Texas, on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 11:10 p.m. weighing 7.10 lbs and 21 inches long. Proud parents are Catherine and Michael Gonzales.

Joys and Thanksgivings



Haval Latif sends his love from Kurdistan to all of us. He is now an American professor teaching English at a university there. He says that everything in Kurdistan is presently shut down—markets, schools, mosques — because of COVID-19.



Many thanks to **Larry Jackson**, who has been working to sand and paint one of the church narthexes! Many thanks to **Dan McKeel** who also has been working on this!

Congratulations to **Emily Dawson** who represented Murray High School at the Future Business Leaders of American Region One Leadership Conference and placed second in accounting!

Joys and Thanksgivings

Congratulations to **Bradley Dawson**, who received the DAR Good Citizen Award!



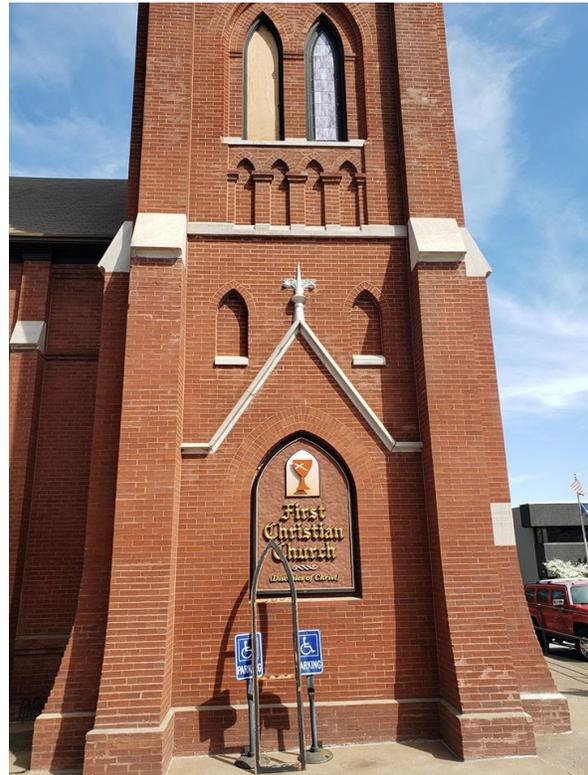
Diana Darnell (pictured above) and **Celeste McAllister** have been busy sewing protective face masks at home!

Our church lawn has been looking wonderful, thanks to **Rob Clause** and **Dan McKeel**!



Congratulations to the Eldredge's granddaughter, **Elizabeth**, who married Tyler Head in a private ceremony on April 4! A follow up wedding reception will be held at a later date.

Joys and Thanksgivings



On April 8, a fierce storm passed through Murray with strong winds that knocked out and shattered one of the stain glass windows in the church steeple. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Many thanks to **Terry Hart** for cleaning up the broken glass on the sidewalk and **Rob Clause** for climbing up into the steeple, removing the old window frame and placing temporary plywood where the window was. (See photos above). The new stained glass window has arrived. It cost \$900. Any donation toward this should go in the Building Fund.

Our church building has been getting a deep cleaning, thanks to our wonderful custodian **Aimee Bailey!** She has even cleaned the rolling carts that the garbage cans in the fellowship hall are placed on!

Joys and Thanksgivings

When you go stir crazy take a drive around the city court square where you will see a beautiful spring banner (with a bumble bee on it) that was designed by **Alyssa Daugherty**.

Congratulations on yours being chosen Alyssa!

Congratulations to **Duraine “Rainey Ray” Gaddie**, who is a Distinguished Honor Graduate from Calloway County High School! She is the granddaughter of Rainey Apperson and the daughter of Emily Gaddie.

Shannon Farley donated a half gallon of hand sanitizer to our church that she purchased from a distillery in Hopkinsville that has started making it. It is more liquidy than the gel type we often have and, therefore, it is best to put in a spray bottle. There is still some at the church if someone needs any. Call or email the church office and we’ll find a way for you to pick some up (you will have to bring your own bottle to put it in). Thanks Shannon!



Many thanks to high school junior **Ellen Blalock** (Diana Darnell's granddaughter and Shannon Farley's daughter), who has been working as a consultant for the church, teaching Pastor Ruth how to hold virtual meetings on Zoom. She is an excellent teacher! Ellen also recently won first place in the Trigg County Arrowcats March Madness Bullseye Tournament!

Condolences



Donnie Hendrix' mother, **Ruth Hendrix**, took her final breath at 10:45 AM on Wednesday, March 25, at Countryside Nursing and Rehabilitation in Bardwell with Donnie at her side, as she returned to her eternal home. A private funeral service was held at Milner and Orr Funeral Home in Bardwell on March 27, at 11 AM, with Pastor Ruth officiating. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to: Bardwell Baptist Church Food Pantry, P.O. Box 147, Bardwell, KY 42023.

From Donnie Hendrix: "Good morning my beloved church family, Although this falls so short of my true feelings, I wanted to say thank you for all the love and support, prayers, phone calls, texts, and visits as I stayed with and said goodbye for now to my momma. Your virtual support helped me with the strength I needed and gave me the courage to stay by her side. I know you would have surrounded me with your presence if we weren't in the times we are in. I cannot wait until this dreadful virus is over so I can hug everyone of you. May the love of God surround each of you and keep you safe until we meet again. Love, Donnie"

Our love and prayers are with Rebecca Landolt in the death of her cousin, **Carolyn Chandler**, on Friday, April 3, 2020, in Paris, Tennessee. A memorial service will be held in the future.

Our love and prayers are with Melissa Dunham and family in the death of her father, **James B. Jimmy Slay**, on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at the Murray Calloway County Hospital.

Our love and prayers are with Catherine E. Berry Peek and family in the death of her husband, **E. Wayne Peek**, who died on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at his home in Nashville, TN. Catherine grew up at First Christian Church, Murray, where her father Joseph Berry was a lifetime member. A private graveside services was held at the Berry Plot, Murray City Cemetery on April 29, 2020.

Condolences

Our love and prayers are with Nancy Dycus in the death of her cousin **Joan Cud** in Arkansas.

Our love and prayers are with Carmen Garland and family in the death of her mother, **Nadine Arnold**, early Friday morning, April 24, 2020, at a nursing home in Peoria, Illinois. She was in her early nineties and passed away peacefully in her sleep. A memorial service will be held when it is safe to do so.

Our love and prayers are with the family of Ron Gray whose brother Bill's 97-year-old mother-in-law, **Ardis Drabikn**, passed away early Friday morning, April 14, in a nursing home in Michigan from Covid-19. There will be a small graveside service.

Be in prayer for...

Joy Burgoyne
Billie Burton
Joyce and Nate Clause
Sandra Daughrity
Teresa Dowdy
Phyllis Duckworth
Vera Ebert-Melone
Judy Eldredge
Theda Farris
Fiona Fennell
Leon Fowler
Patricia Hughes
Christy Ledington
Nancy Manning



Paula Marvin
Celeste and Bob McAllister
John Pasco
McKenna Phelps
Aaron Perkins
Carolyn Reagan
Ron Ratliff
Melissa Reed

Deane Renshaw
Bill Roberts
Cecil Roberts
Tom Seipel
Andrew Schultz
Gerald Schultz
Scott Tamaren
Patsy Tracy
Jackie Underwood
Sharon Wells
Gary White
Bernice Willis
Linda Wilson

FINANCIAL GIVING

| FINANCIAL REPORT FOR February | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2020 | 2019 |
| Income | \$ 15,266.96 | \$ 14,348.04 |
| Expense | \$ 12,951.76 | \$ 12,465.85 |
| Balance | \$ 2,315.20 | \$ 1,882.19 |

| FINANCIAL REPORT FOR Jan-Feb | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 2020 | 2019 |
| Income | \$ 27,516.51 | \$ 24,712.09 |
| Expense | \$ 26,537.76 | \$ 30,588.07 |
| Balance | \$ 978.75 | \$ (5,875.98) |

| FINANCIAL REPORT FOR March | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | 2020 | 2019 |
| Income | \$ 11,759.97 | \$ 15,650.13 |
| Expense | \$ 15,876.29 | \$ 12,555.48 |
| Balance | \$ (4,116.32) | \$ 3,094.65 |

| FINANCIAL REPORT FOR Jan-March | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2020 | 2019 |
| Income | \$ 39,276.48 | \$ 40,362.22 |
| Expense | \$ 42,414.05 | \$ 43,143.55 |
| Balance | \$ (3,137.57) | \$ (2,781.33) |

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

From the Stewardship and Finance Committee

Congregation Members and Friends,

As you well know, the Coronavirus Pandemic has greatly influenced our daily lives perhaps as much as any other single event in modern times. To be sure, it has affected our ability to gather as a Body of Christ and to carry out many of the Christian development activities that make us what we are. Still, many activities continue as Pastor Ruth and the church staff have developed alternate plans to nurture our spiritual growth. We should send staff members a note expressing our appreciation!

As you have no doubt concluded, our financial wellbeing is also being impacted. Contributions for the last two Sundays in March, coupled with receipts for the month of April, have shown us that we must look to alternate means to enable all of us to continue giving to our church. And while gifts are now down, most of our expenses —salaries, utilities, insurances, etc.—continue. Debbie Batteiger, our Director of Communications, has done some research regarding online giving platforms and we believe she has identified a platform that meets our requirements—secure, easy to use, and cost effective. Enrolling is easy, and you control what happens. If you use your phone (if you go the mobile route), all someone can do with the Givelify app is make a contribution to the church! Of course, some of us might prefer to use our desktop or laptop computers to make our gifts. The cost is only 2.9% of each gift, plus a \$.30 per transaction fee. At the end of this note are instructions from Debbie regarding how to enroll in Givelify. She is also preparing a helpful video which you can find on our website at <https://www.fccmurray.com/>, as well as at the end of this email.

Enrolling in Givelify is certainly optional. If you prefer to mail your gift directly to the church, the address is: 111 North 5th Street, Murray, KY 42071. If we can help in any way, just call the church office at 270-753-3824. Debbie is always willing to help!

Our church has a rich history that includes overcoming adversity. With God's help we will overcome this current challenge and we will be stronger than ever. We have much to do for our Lord and Savior, and all of us stand ready to play a role.

God Bless!

Don Chamberlain, Chairman
Stewardship and Finance Committee

Givelify

Tap. Give. Done.

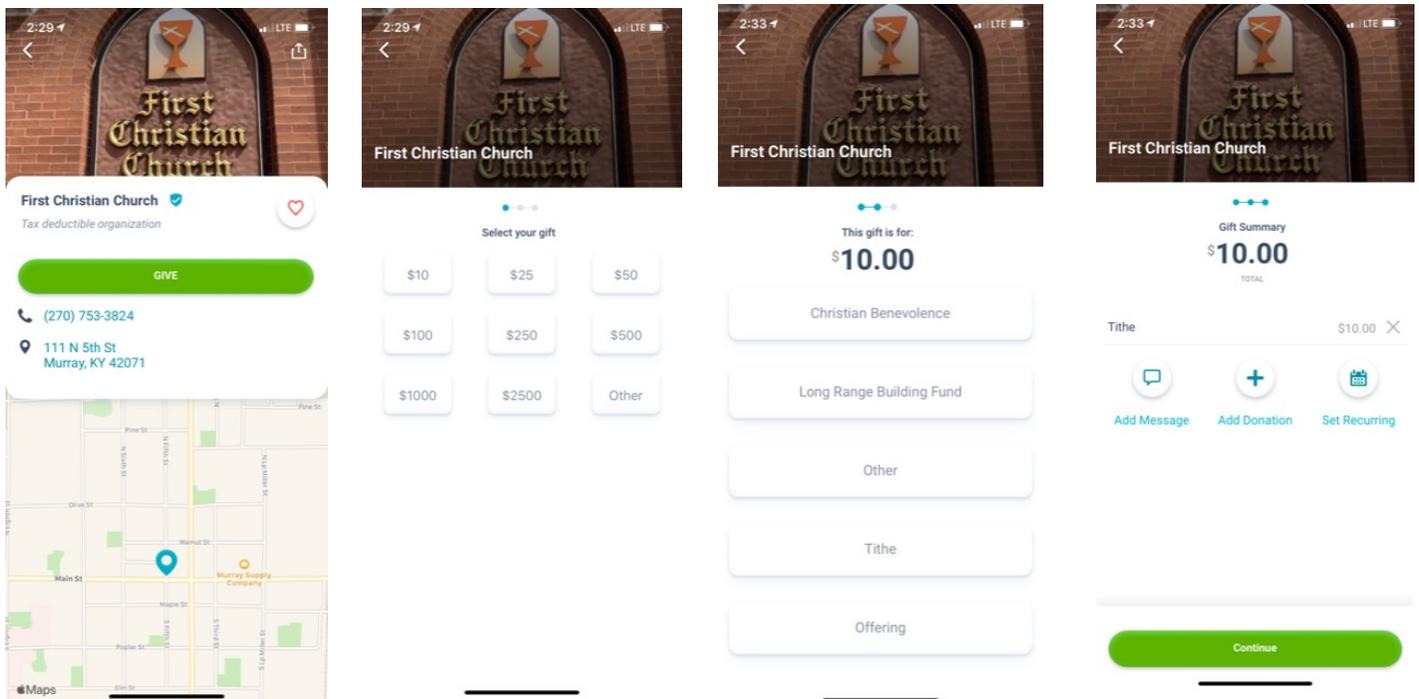


First Christian has entered a new era: the age of anytime, anywhere giving. We are now signed up with Givelify, the online and the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities. You can now give online by using your computer or using your phone.

To make your first computer donation, go to <https://www.givelify.com/givers> to start giving. To make your first mobile donation the best experience possible, we recommend you download the Givelify app for [Android](#) or [iPhone](#) before you get to service.

Givelify gives you a beautiful, easy giving experience using your smartphone. There are no frustrating web forms or text-to-give codes to memorize. Even better, 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.

Make your offerings, tithes, and gifts to virtual envelopes right from the palm of your hand. You can give to First Christian Church wherever you are. Make us your home place of worship for quick one-tap access.



Note from our Elder Chair, John Roark

Like many of you, this epidemic is beginning to wear on me. I want my old routine back. I want to be able to see the people that I know and love. I want to go out to eat. I want to shop until I drop. I want to go to church and to have choir practice. I have prayed that this pandemic will end. I know that God hears my prayers, but why isn't He responding? Or is He? I am reminded of the following story:

A man who lived alone was sitting on his front porch watching it rain. It was an intense rain, much like a monsoon. Pretty soon water was collecting in the road which ran in front of his house and in his yard. The rain continued and became a foot deep in the road and the yard.

Several vehicles and wagons passed by his house as people in the area began to evacuate. A family passed by in a horse drawn wagon loaded down with all of their belongings. The father of the family called out to the man and asked if he wanted a ride with them as the area would soon be flooded. The man replied, "No thank you, God will take care of me".

The rain continued and soon the flooding water was deep enough that it was just about even with his front porch. A small boat came by and the people in the boat asked the man if he wanted to get into the boat and flee the flood with them. Again the man replied, "No thank you, God will take care of me".

Eventually the water began to flood the man's house so he climbed into the attic and was looking out the attic window. A helicopter was checking the area and hovered near the house to see if there was anyone left at the home. Seeing the man in the attic window, the helicopter pilot called to the man and told him to come out onto the roof and he would pick the man up. The man again replied, "No thank you, God will take care of me".

The rain continued and the house was swept away in the flood along with the man, who drowned. The man had been a good man and went to heaven. Upon arrival, the man asked God, "Why did you not save me? I was sure that you would not let me die."

God replied, "I sent you a wagon, a boat and a helicopter. You refused them all. What were you expecting?"

Like the man in the story, I have my version of how God should respond to my request. But God's response may be different. I still can't do all of the things that I want to do... but what about the things that I can do? I have done some yardwork that probably wouldn't have been done otherwise. Beth and I take walks just to get out of house for a bit and to get exercise ... and so is everyone else in the neighborhood. Remembering to maintain social distance, we have met many of our neighbors in the last few weeks. There is a good chance that we would not have met some of these neighbors without this pandemic.

So I urge you to look around you and see things in a different perspective ... God may be responding to our prayers in ways that we didn't anticipate.



Rep. Larry Elkins met with NAMI Murray on March 12. Pictured, from left to right, are Debbie Batteiger; Alan Batteiger; Janice Morgan; Brenda Benson, president of NAMI Murray; Jim Benson; Elkins; Michelle Black, chief nursing officer for MSHN Enterprises in Tennessee; Chris Stephenson, chief information officer for MSHN Enterprises; and Debbie Moline.

NAMI Murray participates in advocacy day in Frankfort

By Debbie Batteiger

FRANKFORT – Seven members of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) affiliate in Murray traveled to Frankfort for NAMI’s Advocacy Day on Thursday, March 12, with the purpose of speaking to legislators about policy.

Every year, NAMI Kentucky hosts an advocacy day in the capitol to meet with legislators to discuss NAMI’s policy priorities. This year’s focus was to request increased mental health funding; fund supportive housing; and protect public assistance programs for the mentally ill. Murray members met with Sen. Stan Humphries, Rep. Richard Heath; and Rep. Larry Elkins.

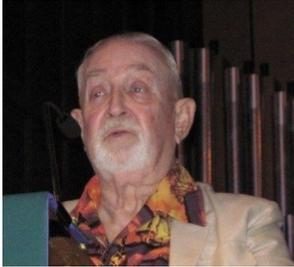
NAMI Murray also met with the co-chair of the judiciary committee Sen. Whitney Westerfield. This year, NAMI Murray also invited Chris Stephenson, chief information officer, and Michelle Black, chief nursing officer, both of MSHN Enterprises, to attend meetings with them. MSHN Enterprises is a supportive living facility for persons suffering from mental illness, located in Tennessee. They shared their support for Kentucky expanding and improving the current supportive housing system.

Additionally, NAMI Murray member Janice Morgan brought her newly released book, *Suspended Sentence*, about her journey with her son who has a dual diagnosis that includes substance abuse and bipolar disorder, to give to legislators.

The Murray NAMI affiliate/support group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm., in the MCCH Educational Services Building, located at 205 S. 8th Street. The support group is for family, friends and persons diagnosed with a mental illness.

Thoughts from Tony Van Dyke

Courtesy of the Paris Post-Intelligencer



It seems that about 99.9% of the population is having some trouble with this thing called “social distancing.” I know that it has not been real easy for me since I am a touchy, feely, huggy person but I am getting there, thanks to a couple of “Don’t you touch me, man, or you’ll be missing more than a leg! Know what I mean, Vern?!”

So, being in somewhat of a quandry as to how to proceed, I went to the source of information for anything you need—the computer. I typed in “social distancing” and it led me to Bruce Lee.

No, not the Bruce Lee who could whip any being alive with the Shao Lin magic fists and feet and mind, but the Bruce Y. Lee, “writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado eater, and entrepreneur,” not necessarily in that order. (Those are his words describing himself.)

Dr. Lee has come up with ten common sense ways to maintain your distance from someone else without appearing to be rude.

They are things, some of which we do everyday, but others take some getting use to and schedule juggling in the case of businesses. Look through them and decide on what you are to do. Remember, this stuff kills.

1. Don’t hold or attend large meetings. God doesn’t care if you are in church or not. He want you out doing His work, not pushing up daisies.
2. Be careful with public pens and other such items open to public use. Banks are a good example. Have YOUR pen with you to sign anything that needs it.
3. Avoid rush hours and any situations that tend to attract large crowds. I am truly sorry about the whiskers fry this year.
4. Do not go to necessary places like the grocery during peak hours. Pick your time.
5. Don’t go to schools, movies, sporting events, or work, if possible. I know some work places have set up computer networks, as have some churches, so you don’t have to mingle.
6. Don’t shake on it, hug, or kiss. (Sorry, so sorry).
7. Avoid the crowded area in a room. There is always one area that is congested to a fault, usually the buffet or the bar. STAY AWAY!

8. Avoid activities that require close instruction.
9. Don't get too close to others. (Again, sorry).
10. STAY at home AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

These were actually numbered backward to what I have them. Number one should have been number 10 and okay, you get the drift. Just practice them, especially number 10. If you get cabin fever, go outside and howl at the moon. Where do you think I got the nickname, "Wolfman?"

Finally, a little bit of human interest about two young men who went above and beyond, even at the possible loss of their jobs. As you know, I had nothing in the paper last week. It was because I was having eye problems and had to go to Jackson (Tennessee) for a shot in the left eyeball. Sounds bad, right? I much prefer that than one in the arm. I didn't even know when the doctor did it!

Anyway, about halfway there, nature hit me and I had to stop. We stopped at a place that had the drive-thru open but no dining inside. Charlotte went in, explained the situation, and these two young men came out, got me out of the van, and everything was good. We bought some things there and went on to Jackson.

Folks, this is what it is all about. These young men went way past, even to the point of maybe losing their jobs. I fervently pray that they didn't. Sometimes you have to take a chance and put yourself out there to help someone who needs it. Do not be afraid because you are never alone. We know that, yet in some instances, we tend to forget it. DON'T! That would be right up there among the silliest things you have ever done.

Remember, God loves you and so do I. Don't do anything silly like catch this beer virus.

Think about it.



✓ Stay Healthy at Home

Leave only for essential items such as groceries once a week.

✓ Avoid Crowds & Gatherings

Avoid crowds of any size, including home visits, recreational areas or crowded shopping.

✓ Practice Social Distancing

Maintain 6 feet between you and others at all times.

✓ Know When to Seek Care

Follow the "When to Seek Care" guidelines available at [KYCOVID19.KY.GOV](https://www.ky.gov/covid19).

✓ KYCOVID19.KY.GOV

Stay up-to-date through reliable sources such as [KYCOVID19.KY.GOV](https://www.ky.gov/covid19).

✓ Wash Hands & Surfaces

Use soap and warm water and wash hands for 20+ seconds. Frequently disinfect regularly used surfaces.

✓ Apply for Benefits

Kentucky has expanded unemployment benefits. If you have not applied, visit [KCC.KY.GOV](https://www.kcc.ky.gov).

✓ Prioritize Mental Health

Seek out virtual social opportunities and maintain a routine. Other practices can be found at [KYCOVID19.KY.GOV](https://www.ky.gov/covid19).

✓ Do Not Travel

The safest place for you and others is at home. Do not travel by car or plane.

✓ Report Non-Compliance

If you see individuals or businesses not complying with COVID-19 guidelines, report to the KYSAFER hotline at 1-833-KYSAFER.

Upcoming Opportunities

(Please note that these are plans put in place during the time we are not able to provide in person gatherings at the church. As such, they are tentative and subject to change. Please read your weekly Tuesday email for updated information.)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT 'VIRTUAL' LIVE

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Please join with members of your church family on Zoom for a time of fellowship and 'lectio divina' as we explore how God speaks to us through poetry and scripture. The log in information will be emailed out the day of the gathering.

SUNDAYS

The sermon will be emailed out and videoed on Facebook Live on Saturday afternoons or evenings for you to use along with your at-home worship kits.

Note: the sermon and at-home worship kits also will be posted on our church's website at www.fccmurray.com

The sermons may be viewed (internet permitting) on our church's Facebook page (First Christian Church, Murray, KY) that you may access either through your personal Facebook page or by going to the church's website at www.fccmurray.com and scrolling down to the Facebook icon on the bottom left.

COMMUNION: We encourage you to take communion at 11 AM, knowing how meaningful it is when many of us partake of the bread and cup at the same time. Please use any kind of beverage, bread or crackers for communion.

CARILLON CONCERT: There will be a carillon concert each Sunday at noon. Please park your car in the vicinity of the church to listen to a number of hymns.

Note: Elders Meetings, Board Meetings, Outreach, Financial Stewardship and other meetings will be held via Zoom.

Happy Birthday

- 2 Claire Gray
- 5 Patsy Tracy
- 6 Chelsea Bolen
Ryan Ferguson
- 10 Jim Stickler
- 12 June Vander Molen
- 14 Vicki Singleton
- 17 Bobbie Raby
Janet Schell
- 18 Carmen Garland
- 19 Amelia Donnelly
- 20 Martha Chamberlain
- 21 Brentley Bennett
Bret Looney
- 23 Billie Burton
- 29 Donna Cathey
Milo Dillard
- 30 Chip Gray

MAY

Happy Anniversary

- 4 Don & Lisa Wilson
Dwight & Allison Willis
- 17 Fred & Sharon Wells
- 18 Tim & Tory Daughrity
- 21 Joseph Benton & Rachel Ragovin
- 31 Fulton & Meagan Hart



If you have a special event coming up where you need a gift, consider FCC's **Alternative Gift Catalog!** It's available year-round and you can help a deserving organization! Order forms and catalogs are available in the narthexes and on our website, www.fccmurray.com.

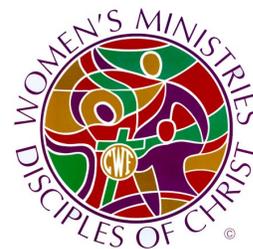


- 2 Rasha Khalil
- 4 Judy Hill
- 6 Gary White, Sr.
- 7 Shawna Rushing Munger
Meagan Hart
- 10 Martin Tracy
Ann Thornton
- 11 Joe Chaney
Roger Miller
- 13 Keisa Fallin-Bennett
Alan Chase
- 14 Emily Zimmerman
- 15 Crystal Dillard
John King
Tatum Nichols
- 16 Ron Cella
- 17 Judy Phelps
- 19 Rita Daughaday
- 22 Anita Cole-Paschall
Lisa Wilson
- 24 Lynda Chaney
- 25 Rachel Ragovin
- 29 Lisa Kindall
- 30 Elijah Burkeen
Doris Cella



Happy Anniversary

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



NOTE FROM CWF:

The CWF Mother/Child Banquet, which was scheduled for May 6, has been canceled due to COVID-19. We ask that everyone use their time and talents during the COVID-19 pandemic to make items for the Nov 7th CWF Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale.

Graduating Seniors



Congratulations Raghda Abo Al Haija!



- She is the daughter of Rasha Khalil.
- Graduating from Calloway County High School as a valedictorian.
- Microsoft Certified in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- 4.0 GPA and scored a 32 on the ACT.
- Talented in art and won 2D Best in Show in the KAEA Purchase/Pennyrile Regional High School Art Exhibition, among other awards
- Named the October 2019 Student of the Month by the Rotary Club
- Was Murray Bank Student of the Week
- Will be majoring in Chemistry at Murray State University and hopes to become a doctor
- Congratulations may be mailed to her at 1878 Kandi Kay, Murray, Kentucky 42071.

Graduating Seniors



Congratulations Justin Bucy!



- He is the son of Jason and Stephanie Bucy and eldest grandchild of Scott and Paula Marvin.
- While in High School Justin took Carpentry classes at the Vo Tech center.
- He was a member of the FFA and Calloway County Clay Crushers shooting team.
- Justin has enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard and will attend Basic Training this summer.
- Congratulations may be mailed to him in care of Scott and Paula Marvin, 4803 St Rte 94-W, Murray, Kentucky 42071.

Graduating Seniors



Congratulations Bradley Ethan Dawson!



- He is the son of Melanie and Roger Dawson and the grandson of Glenda Roos and the late Rev. Dr. David Roos
- Graduating from Murray High School, Top Ten Percent and Summa Cum Laude
- National Merit Finalist
- Involved in Varsity soccer, baseball and football
- National Honor Society
- Member of Beta Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Peer tutor for Special Education students
- Future Plans: Bradley has accepted a Presidential Scholarship to Murray State University where he will study mechanical engineering
- Congratulations may be mailed to him at 1404 Purdom Road, Almo, Kentucky 42020.

Graduating Seniors



Congratulations Echo Faith Falwell!



- She is the daughter of Brittney and Matthew Falwell.
- Activities: Murray High Lady Tiger soccer, Murray High track and field
- Murray State's Leadership Tomorrow program
- French club, Future Business Leaders of America, Art club, Math club, Beta club, Board game club
- 2019 United Space School program
- Awarded the Texas flag by The Foundation for International Space Education for "Exceptional Work on the Yellow Team"
- National Honors Society
- National Art Honors Society
- Quill and Scroll
- Will be majoring in public relations at Murray State University.
- Congratulations may be mailed to her at 5303 Wiswell Road, Murray, Kentucky 42071.

Graduating Seniors



Congratulations Duraine (Rainey) Ray Gaddie!



- She is the daughter of Emily Gaddie and the late Gerald Gaddie and granddaughter of Rainey Apperson
- Rainey is a 2020 graduate of Calloway County High School.
- She was a 4-year member of the Varsity Cheerleading Squad, FBLA and Beta Club.
- She is a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- Rainey plans to major in advertising and journalism at Murray State University.
- Congratulations may be mailed to her at 1511 Chaucer, Murray, Kentucky 42071.



Outreach

LAUNDRY LOVE: Please continue to collect quarters for Laundry Love. We were unable to participate in this important ministry during the month of April 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.

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.



Chad Cochran of State Farm

Blessing Box Locations - Calloway County



- Cole's Campground
- Memorial Baptist Church
- Southwest Elementary
- North Elementary
- Elm Grove Baptist
- Studio 95 Hair Salon
- City Park (by the office)
- St. John's episcopal
- Westside Baptist Church
- First Christian Church
- Murray Middle School
- Murray Elementary
- Bella's in Hazel
- Kirksey United Methodist
- North Pleasant Grove Baptist



Krista Crass

Outreach

NEEDLINE: Needline is in serious need of additional monetary and food donations during this time when so many are out of work due to the coronavirus pandemic. They are receiving many more requests for help, including so many who never have asked for help before. Additionally, they are asking for donations of HOTDOGS. As the weather is getting warmer and kids are playing outside, they want to give them something fun to eat outside. You may drop off your donations at their location at 509 N. 8th Street in Murray. When you arrive, please give them a call at 270-753-6333. They will come to your car to receive your delivery.

REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED: Our congregants who live in assisted living facilities are not allowed to have any visitors, even from family. Deane Renshaw shared with Pastor Ruth that her family comes and stands by her window and they wave and talk with her over the phone. All meals are now served in the residents' rooms so they no longer even have daily fellowship with people. We encourage you to send notes to the following people, who are in this situation:

Deane Renshaw, Hickory Woods, 84 Utterback Rd., Murray, KY 42071

Carolyn Reagan, Hickory Woods, 84 Utterback Rd., Murray, KY 42071

Linda Wilson, Hickory Woods, 84 Utterback Rd., Murray, KY 42071 (*Note: this is Don Wilson's mother*)

Jackie Underwood, 236 Glendale Place, Room 332, Murray, KY 42071

Norma Jean Williams, 236 Glendale Place, Murray, KY 42071

Stella Cavitt, Wesley at Murray, 440 Utterback Rd., Murray, KY 42071

Please remember too to keep on sending mail to McKenna Phelps. You may send her a letter size or card no longer than 6" x 9". It must have a return address. No stickers or drawings are allowed on the envelope. They may be mailed to the following address:

McKenna Phelps – PSAP

Henderson County Detention Center

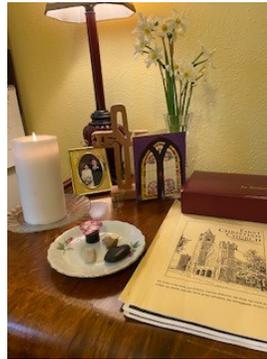
380 Borax Drive

Henderson, KY 42420

At-Home Worship Centers



Ann Thornton



Rebecca Landolt



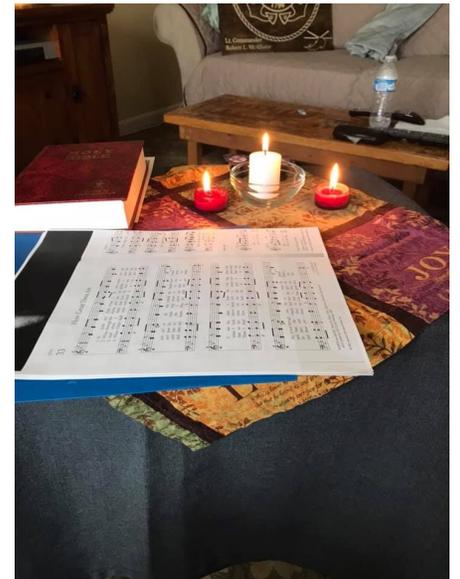
Don and Lisa Wilson



Elena and Roman Roberts



The Hughes family



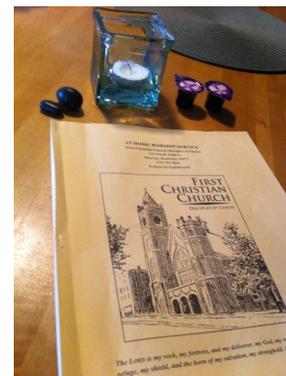
Bob and Celeste McAllister



Richard and Steven Reed



The Daugherty family



The Holton family

At-home worship centers



Lynda and Joe Chaney



Don and Jean Bennett



Revs. Ruth and Russ Ragovin



Judy and Ethan Phelps



Rhonda Roso wrote: *"A lovely at-home worship packet provided by our church. While we cannot gather together now as usual, we can still join our hearts and our spirits while at home. Not only are folks being introduced to educating their children at home and working from home, but also now worshipping at home as well. In the comfortable sanctuaries of our own homes, we can be truly blessed by moments of peace and solitude to pray, read, reflect, meditate, rejoice, praise, and forgive... empowered to face any situation, to show our love and compassion for others, and to provide help in any way that we can with renewed strength and hope. By the way, this type of worship is not limited to Sundays and nor is it limited to any particular building. May your light shine all week long, especially as we make loving sacrifices for the benefit of others. Love and Peace to you and yours."*

Wednesday Night Live: Irish Potato/St. Patrick Night March 11, 2020



VBS Training

March 14, 2020

Many thanks to **Nancy Dycus, Jim Stickler, Sharon Rue, Joe Croghan, Teresa Nixon, Ann Thornton, and Lisa Kindall** for representing our church and participating with other churches in the VBS Fun Shop Training on Saturday, March 14!



Fellowship Hall gets two new stoves!

Leah Hart would like to thank the CWF committee in charge of purchasing the new stoves in the fellowship hall: **Ann Thornton, Betty McCord, Vicky Holton, and Judy Lyle**. They, along with **Terry Hart and Dan McKeel** and the **Disciples Mens' Fellowship**, were very supportive, helpful, and worked hard to make the new stoves a reality. Many thanks to the CWF II group who did a deep cleaning of the kitchen!

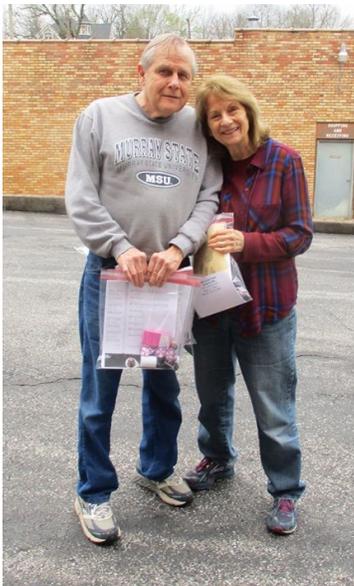
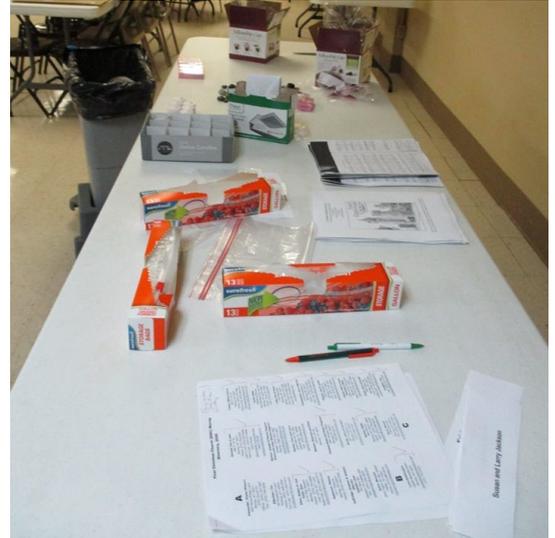


At-home worship kits delivered

March 22, 2020

Many thanks to the following individuals who delivered at-home worship services (including communion elements) on Thursday, March 19:

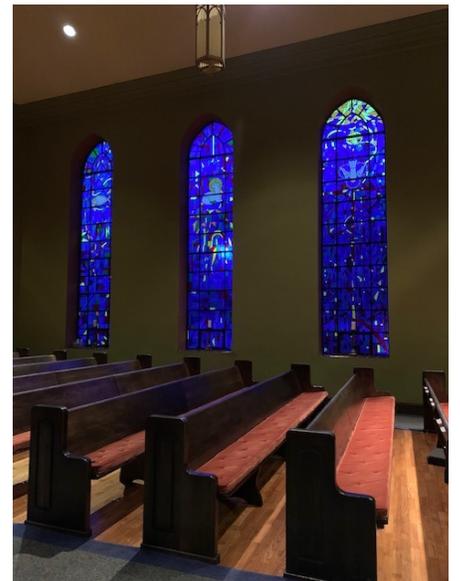
- Don and Jean Bennett
- Elena and Roman Roberts
- Debbie Batteiger
- Tory Daughrity
- Ruth Daughaday
- Joey Parker
- Sharon Rue and Joe & Marley Croghan
- Ann Thornton
- Richard Reed
- Rebecca Landolt
- Nancy and Mark Dycus and Brenton Hall



Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2020

Pastor Ruth and Donnie Hendrix presented this service on Facebook Live.



Decorating the Cross for Easter

April 11, 2020

Many thanks to **Rob Clause** for putting up the cross on our church's front lawn, and to **Rebecca Landolt** for organizing the placing of live flowers on it on Saturday morning, April 11. Many brought flowers and came and helped (while exercising social distancing)!



Debbie, Amy, and Melanie Roos, daughters of Rev. Dr. David and Glenda Roos, our pastoral family for 24 years, standing behind the Easter cross of fresh flowers in 1979 and again in 2020 as this tradition has been renewed.



Celebrating Good Friday and Easter at-home

April 12, 2020

SCENES FROM EASTER WEEKEND: Top left: Rainey Apperson takes communion on Good Friday; top right: Rebecca Landolt takes communion on Easter Sunday. Bottom photos: Bob and Celeste McAllister celebrate Easter.

