

Church Life



Experiencing and Sharing Christ through Love & Service

January, February, March 2022

Volume 74, Issue 1

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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

Pastor Ruth:

ruthragovin@gmail.com



Pastor's Article



Saturday, January 15, 2022

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Gosh! Just when it seemed we were beginning to find our sea legs to navigate this new normal world, BAM! The perfect weather conditions emerged for a deadly storm. I remember in the days before the powerful tornado hit our area on December 10, 2021, seeing so many people from all over the place post the most beautiful sunsets on Facebook I have ever seen. I would go outside in the late afternoon and see the majestic pinks and reds and yellows and purples of the sky and marvel. Yet there was also something very unsettling about this, especially as the temperatures seemed almost summer like. Eerily warm. There was this gut level feeling that something was amiss, off-kilter, that it was almost too beautiful to be healthy. The calm-before-the-storm kind of feeling. So I actually was not as surprised as I might have been by the viciousness of the storm that passed through on December 10, 2021, destroying so much of the area around us. That evening, as we were waiting to see the truth of the predictions of Meteorologist Noah Bergren that this was going to be a major weather event, our wonderful West Area Minister, Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, reached out to Rev. Milton West of FCC in Mayfield, Rev. Kristi Stuckel of FCC in Benton, and me through a group text message that went as follows:

Friday, December 10, 2021, 6:04 PM from Rachel: *Kristi, Milton, and Ruth, I'm watching the weather in the West area tonight. If anyone in your congregations have damage, or if your church buildings are damaged, from the storms, let me know and I will reach out to Week of Compassion for any needed assistance. Y'all be safe. Praying all goes well.*

6:06 PM from Milton West: *Will do.*

6:14 PM from Ruth Ragovin: *Thank you Rachel!*

6:35 PM from Kristi Stuckel: *Thank you. I will do it.*

10:18 PM from Milton West: *Our church was obliterated tonight. Several calls. I am not there. Can't get in. Board chair is trying to get there.*

10:20 PM from Milton West: *Got a call from First Presbyterian.*

10:21 PM from Rachel Nance Woehler: *I'm so sorry Milton. ... We will be with you through all this.*

10:22 PM from Ruth Ragovin: *Oh no!! Unbelievable!!! Fervent prayers!!!*

10:22 PM from Milton West: *Thanks guys.*

Pastor's Article

Saturday, December 11, 2021, 12:14 AM from Milton West:



*First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Mayfield, Kentucky
December 11, 2021*

How my stomach sank when I saw this picture that Milton had texted. We had just lost electricity shortly before (thankfully we still had internet and cell phone service). The world became dark as the storms continued to rage. The next day we were to learn the extent of the damage suffered by the communities all around. Unbelievable! In addition to all the lives lost, homes and businesses destroyed, eight Disciples of Christ congregations in Western KY were affected. Of course, FCC in Murray has always had a close relationship with FCC in Mayfield since together we provided the seed money to purchase Camp Kum-Ba-Ya and a number of our congregants have close ties there. Their former minister, Rev. Dr. Bruce Dobyns, is presently a member of our congregation. He and his wife Beth live in Mayfield and thankfully their home, only about a mile from the church, was spared. We all cried when we saw the photos of Mayfield the next day and many drove by to see the damage themselves. I had newfound appreciation for the Week of Compassion who reached out immediately by calling the church for many days following to see what they could do to help.

Within me live both gratitude and guilt. I feel guilty for feeling grateful that we were spared. I know that I am not the only one struggling with "survivor's guilt." How is it possible that there is destruction all around but Murray, and our beautiful church, were spared? How is it possible that the very next week our children went back to school while the schools in Mayfield served as information and distribution centers rather than classrooms? Of course, we know that none of this was the will of God. God didn't choose what places would be hit and what places would be spared. Divine providence doesn't work that way with God

Pastor's Article

zapping us. Rather God works within us to give us the internal tools and wisdom we need to respond wisely to what hits us (personal struggles, tornados, the death of loved ones, a local hospital that only yesterday activated an "Emergency Operations Plan" and implemented "Crisis Staffing Standards" since current incidence rates of Covid "are four times higher than the threshold for the county to be considered a High Transmission area," ongoing political polarization that is even felt at a local and familial level, and so much more).

So, we are led to ask, where is God in all of this? It seems to me that the Christian answer is very clear. God is with us. I mean that quite literally. God is with us by being within us. God's presence manifests itself through what we call the Body of Christ of which each of us is a part. Our lectionary passage for this Sunday, January 16, 2022, is I Corinthians 12, which states: *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it"* (I Cor 12:27). God works through us as the Body of Christ not only to help rebuild but also to offer hope in a hurting world. God is sustaining us with every breath we take, God's love surrounds us eternally, yet God asks us to hold up our end of things so that we act as co-partner with God and the other members of the Body of Christ to rebuild western Kentucky.

Part of the survivor's guilt for me comes in the form of the feeling of helplessness that I have done so little outside of giving financial resources and being a communicator of the rather limited ways that our congregation can help: by giving to the Week of Compassion offering (write your checks out to *First Christian Church* with 'Week of Compassion' in the memo line), the collection of blankets and coats that were delivered to Mayfield the week after the tornado hit, helping clean off some of the furniture and things that survived at FCC Mayfield, wrapping Christmas presents at Lake Barkley State Park for children impacted by the tornadoes, helping with distribution through Second Christian Church in Mayfield (a number of families in that church lost their homes). I thank all of you who have participated in these efforts. I will continue to let you know of other outreach opportunities as I hear of them. Rev. Milton West, minister of First Christian Church in Mayfield, in a recent phone call told me that he will let me know as work groups are formed.

The rebuilding efforts in western KY should be likened to a marathon rather than a sprint. We might remember how everyone races in the first few days and weeks to reach out to those who are grieving the death of a loved one, but then so often slowly drift away so that the survivor is left feeling alone and isolated. Let's not do this to those who have been affected by the December tornados. We are being called to be there in the days and weeks and months and, yes, years ahead. There will be a time after FEMA and the Red Cross leave, when we will be asked to come in and help in very concrete practical ways. Let's ready ourselves for that long term marathon-like effort as we continue to lift up our beloved brothers and sisters in Mayfield and other places in KY in prayer, who are part of the same Body of Christ. Let us continue to help financially by giving to the Week of Compassion. Let us ready ourselves to say YES! at the appropriate time, when we are asked to roll up our sleeves and help in practical ways. You know, perhaps it isn't such a bad thing to continue to bear some of that "survivor's guilt," while at the same time being filled with gratitude for all the many blessings in our lives, remembering, with the Apostle Paul, that: *"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it"* (I Cor 12:26-27).

Now let's go out and show the world that that is what and who we are!

In Christian Love and Service,

Mayfield Volunteer Update from Bruce Dobyms - January 4, 2022

The View from Mayfield

Beth, the house, and I are doing pretty good now. My shoulder still gets achy, and a sling helps with that a bit and if not a bit more pain med.

Our wonderful pastor, Ruth, called to check in on us and the whole city of Mayfield. I was anxious at the beginning of this mess here because I was very limited by my shoulder, but that is coming to an end. I know many of you are anxious to help more too. First, let me tell you this will be at least a 5-year slog for this town. There will be plenty of work for anyone to help and even more help will be needed when attention wanes in the months and years ahead.

But what can you do right now? The big job at this very moment that will only cost you time is working at the Graves County Fair Grounds. There is something for everyone, even older children. The supply center there will be open for the foreseeable future because everything there is to be given away, no questions asked. Those coming give us only their name and how many they are picking up supplies for. Even those in no need picking up supplies for others are free to come in. Here are the jobs that need doing:

- Sitting at the front desk to check in our guests and to register volunteers. While the building is heated, the door lets in cold air and when garage door is open it gets colder quickly. Dress to be warm in layers that can come off if you are moving about.
- The placement of products on tables by category. One woman works from seat and walker to place toys.
- Helping people get supplies to their car. Then making sure the few shopping carts and wagons we have are returned.
- Unload and unpack supplies that are brought to the 2nd building.
- Bring those items to the table area to be placed in the right category.

Come for an hour or stay for the day. Volunteers can start at 8 AM and quitting time is 6 PM. The clientele is allowed in at 9 AM after we are set up. You will need to register and get a name badge.

Of course, there are many other jobs that need skilled people. Let Bruce Dobyms know what your skills are, and he will find you a place to use those. If you are licensed in any trade, you are badly needed here. If you are an equipment operator and/or have your own, you are needed. We especially need smaller rigs where the streets are narrower which cannot handle the big stuff like that used by the Army Corp of Engineers and many contractors.

Call or text me at 309.678.8990 or email me at bruce.dobyms@gmail.com for more information or if you have any questions.

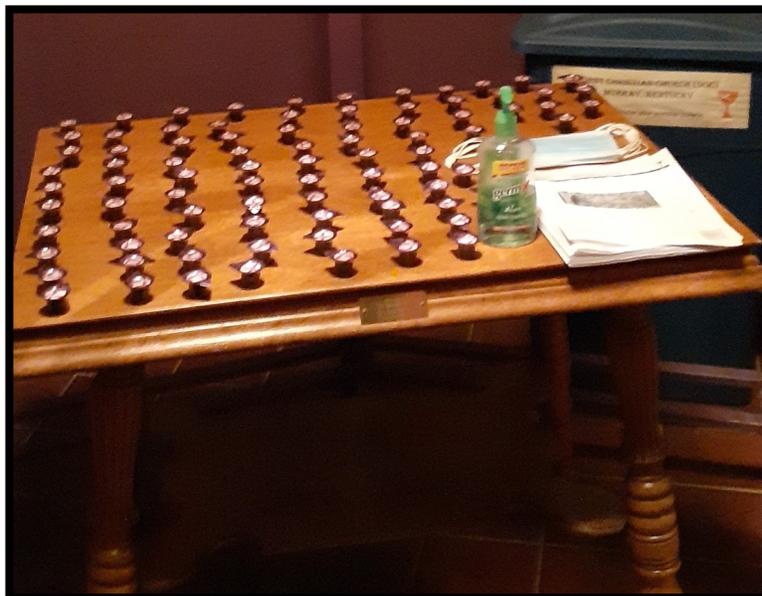
Bruce Dobyms

From the Church Buildings Reopening Committee

We will continue to offer Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and meet in person in our sanctuary at 10:30 a.m., as we follow the guidelines of the CDC. We believe that we can safely do this because the majority of the people attending have been vaccinated. We recognize, however, that many of you prefer to join the worship celebration virtually through Facebook Live and / or Zoom. We will try to provide these virtual options, internet permitting, and as long as we have volunteers to oversee the equipment.

As a measure of respect and love for each other, please observe the following guidelines established by the committee last year:

1. Wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, except when observing communion. (Extra masks are available in the narthex.)
2. Practice social distancing.
3. Enter by the southeast door (the left one when facing the church front). Please pick up a prepackaged communion cup upon entering and a mask if you do not have one with you. The bulletins also are on that table. *(NOTE: if you need gluten-free communion bread, you may find some on the table immediately upon entering the sanctuary.)*
4. Collection plates will be available at the doors leading into the narthexes at the back of the church sanctuary and also the door at the front of the sanctuary leading into the hallway.
5. Exit through either of the doors on the south side.



Welcome Children Worship and Wonder Leaders!

We are grateful that Alyssa Daughrity and Emily Dawson are willing to work alongside Allison Willis and Amara Anderson to oversee our important Children Worship and Wonder program. Alyssa and Emily bring important skills to this position since they both grew up attending Worship and Wonder. Thank you Allison, Amara, Alyssa, and Emily! And thank you June Vander Molen for training them!

Alyssa Daughrity



I was born and raised in Murray and have been attending First Christian Church for as long as I've been alive. My family has attended this church for years and the tradition has continued as I have grown up in the church. Currently, I am a junior at Murray High School. When I'm not in school, you can find me at one of my sports practices seeing that I am a member on both the varsity volleyball and girls' basketball team. My other extracurriculars include being a member on the speech and debate team, Future Business Leaders of America, math club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Beta Club, and the National Honors Society. Outside of extracurriculars, I enjoy hunting, babysitting, hanging out with my friends, attending youth group get-togethers, working with the city parks, and traveling. Being able to help with Wonder and Worship is exciting for me because one of my passions is working with kids, so being able help them to learn about God and navigate their faith journeys means a lot to me. I'm thankful for this opportunity to help with Wonder and Worship and excited for the future of my time working with the program.

Emily Dawson



I was born into this church through my grandfather, Reverend Dr. David C. Roos, and raised through it with the help of my mother, grandmother, and aunt. I was baptized in April of 2012 by my grandfather in this very church. Each week growing up, I would attend church with many of my family members followed by Sunday afternoon lunches. I graduated from Murray High School in 2021 and am currently attending Murray State University as a major in Exercise Science. I am a member of the BCM at Murray State, where I joined my FFG Bible Study Group. I am very excited to be a new part of the FCC Staff and can't wait to spend more time worshiping with the children!

FINANCIAL GIVING

| FINANCIAL REPORT FOR October | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 2021 | 2020 |
| Income | \$ 20,411.87 | \$ 7,801.25 |
| Expense | \$ 11,302.64 | \$ 1,214.34 |
| Balance | \$ 9,109.23 | \$ (4,413.09) |

| FINANCIAL REPORT FOR November | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2021 | 2020 |
| Income | \$ 27,555.53 | \$ 16,874.90 |
| Expense | \$ 15,477.22 | \$ 12,326.81 |
| Balance | \$ 12,078.31 | \$ 4,548.09 |

Please Note: The above numbers reflect that our PPP loan of \$16,974.11 was forgiven by the federal government during the month of November. Without this action, the November month-end balance would have been (\$4,895.80) and our January thru November balance would have been (\$2,625.10). Consequently, our continued financial support of our church is very important.

December report not yet available.

Online Giving

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

To make a computer donation, go to <https://www.givelify.com/givers> to start giving. To make a mobile donation, we recommend you download the Givelify app for Android or iPhone.

It's free to download and use. It's totally safe and secure, and for tax time you have one-tap access to your complete donation records.

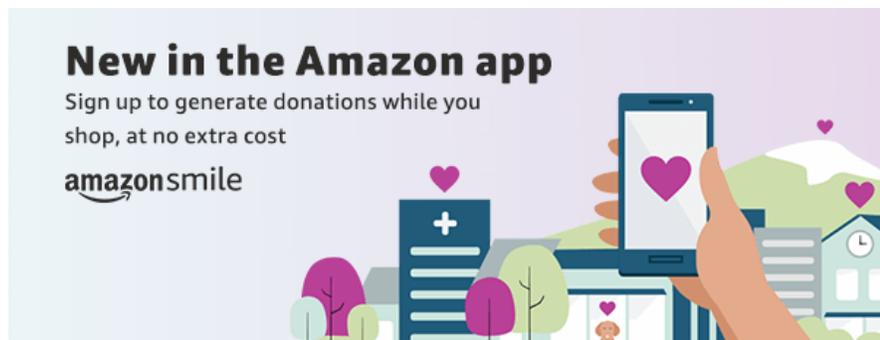


FINANACIAL GIVING

Community Rewards Programs



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



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

How it works:

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



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



CONDOLENCES



Our love and prayers are with Amanda Pennington and family, whose beloved father Greg Wood, passed away on October 14, 2021. Amanda was very close to her father.

Our love and prayers are with the family and friends of Nancy Roberts Thurman, who passed away Friday, October 15, 2021 in Nashville, TN. She grew up in this church with Rebecca Landolt.

Our love and prayers are with the family of Mitchell Fralick, who lost three family members in the December 10, 2021 tornados in Mayfield (his father's two aunts and cousin).

Our love and prayers are with Echo Wu Hensley in the death of her beloved brother, Donghau Wu, at the age of 51 on Monday, December 27, 2021. Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions, Echo was unable to travel to China to be with her family.

Our love and prayers are with the family and friends of John Pasco, long time church member, who passed away peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, December 29, 2021. Special prayers for his wife Kathy, who took care of John for so many years and cannot imagine life without him. A Memorial Service will be held at our church at a later date.

Our love and prayers are with Monte and Janet Finch in the death of Monte's brother, David Finch, on January 7, 2021 in Louisiana.

Be in prayer for...



- Ricky Anderson
- Aimee Bailee
- Patricia Binford
- Rob Binford
- Tim Brock
- Billie Burton
- Deborah Campbell
- Marcus Cavitt
- Noah Cavitt
- Teresa Dycus Dowdy
- Michael Dublin
- Phyllis Duckworth
- Cindy and Ashley Dunn
- Nancy Dycus
- Mark Dycus
- Judy and Dave Eldredge
- Carolyn Gifford
- Glenn Hughes
- Phyllis Huggins
- Loretta Jobs
- Mike Kerrick
- Lisa Kindall
- John King
- Patsy King
- Ruth King
- Judy Lyle
- Paula Marvin
- Bob and Celeste McAllister
- Anna McCurdy
- Eli McKeel
- Dianne and Roger Miller
- Landon Morgan
- Jan Outland
- Kathy Pasco
- Rob Pennington
- Aaron Perkins
- Bobbie Raby
- Ron Ratliff
- Jean Carol Ridley
- Mike Ridley
- Deane Renshaw
- Bill Roberts
- Marge and Pat Roy
- Sharon Russell
- Andrew Schultz
- Bob Shankle
- Sharon Stiglich
- David Tamaren
- Michele Tamaren
- Scott Tamaren
- Betty Shea
- Ann Thornton
- Will Treadway
- Jackie Underwood
- Charlotte & Tony Van Dyke
- Doug Vander Molen
- Cindy Rue Wimbley
- Gary White
- Allison and Dwight Willis
- Linda Wilson
- Bianca Youngman

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. The information will also be shared in the Tuesday email. Below is a Disciples Men's Fellowship update by Dan McKeel following their meeting at Maxon Christian Church in West Paducah in November 2021.

DMF UPDATE FROM DAN McKEEL

November 16, 2021

"Last evening the Far Western KY Christian Men's Fellowship had their monthly meeting at Maxon Christian Church in West Paducah. A delicious meal was served! There were 38 persons in attendance (this is a record since I have been keeping records), representing 8 churches. We also had a record collections: \$258 for KBY and \$184 for the Christian Care Communities, totaling \$442. Our new bank balance is \$4,366.57. Thank you to everyone for these two records.

We were honored to have our West Area Minister (Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler), our Regional Minister and President (Rev. Dr. Don Gillette), and our KBY Camp manager (Denny Flaherty) in attendance. Rachel brought information about the camp and the news of the new cabins being given to KBY. Denny informed us about some of the ways that we might help next spring after the cabins have been setup. Dr. Gillette introduced himself and gave us a wonderful message about the state of the churches in Kentucky, his vision, and his plans to visit with every church in Kentucky. As the meeting closed we heard the we will not meet in December but we will resume meeting in January at Mayfield FCC on Jan. 18, 2022.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas time with your families. May God continue to Bless each and every one of you and I look forward to seeing you in January."

[Note by Katelyn Crane: *Of course, some things have changed since Dan McKeel wrote this since the effects of the tornado in early December that destroyed First Christian Church in Mayfield will prevent them from hosting the January meeting as they planned. The meeting will be held at our church in the fellowship hall instead of Mayfield, with Mayfield's minister, Rev. Dr. Milton West, bringing the program.*]

The Far West Christian Men's group will meet

January 18, 7PM: Meet at Murray First Christian Church— 111 North 5th St. Murray KY 42071

February 15, 7PM: Meet at Bardwell Christian Church— US-51, Bardwell, KY 42023

March 15, 7PM: Meet at Wickliffe First Christian Church— 326 4th Street Wickliffe, KY 42087

Disciples Men's Fellowship

KY Regional Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillette II, speaking at the Far West Disciples Men's Fellowship gathering at Maxon Christian Church in West Paducah on November 15, 2021.

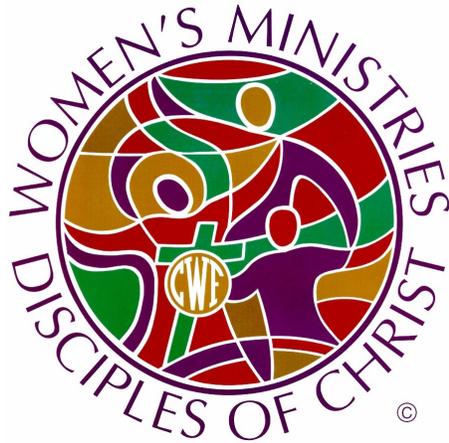


DMF's Handy Helpers



Larry Jackson and Dan McKeel installed a ramp for Dave and Judy Eldredge in late October. Thanks to Terry Hart for transporting the lumber, a neighbor to Dave & Judy for his assistance, and the Men's financial account for funding this project.

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.

January 11, 2022 (Meeting at home of Doris Cella)

Hostess: Doris Cella

Lesson: Norma Jean Williams

February 8, 2022

Hostess: Judy Lyle

Lesson: Judy Lyle

March 8, 2022

Hostess: Bobbie Raby

Lesson: Bobbie Raby

Group II Meetings:

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

January 17, 2022

Hostess: Jean Bennett

Program: Jean Bennett

February 21, 2022

Hostess: Teresa Nixon

Program: Krista Crass

March 21, 2022

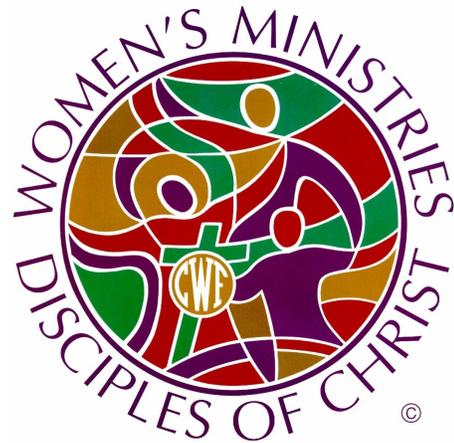
Hostess: Donna Cathey

Program: Billie Burton

CWF Annual Report

Some members of the Christian Women's Fellowship met (masked and socially distanced) for their yearly General Meeting on Sunday afternoon to discuss the allocation of the funds that they raised at the Noel Market. Their generous giving will go to support the following:

- The Anna Mae Owen Hospice House
- W.A.T.C.H.
- Soup for the Soul
- HOPE Calloway
- CASA
- Murray Christian Fellowship
- Camp Kum-Ba-Ya
- Murray Kids Care for Hunger
- Laundry Love
- Need Line Back Pack Program.



Additionally, they will be giving to the care and maintenance of our church by attending to the carpet in the parlor, purchasing a steam mop (this will make our custodian Aimee Bailey's work so much easier), and general kitchen maintenance!

Many thanks to the women of the church for the countless ways they reach out in Christian love and service in our church, community, and around the world! We love and appreciate you!



CWF Noel Market - November 6, 2021

The Christian Women's Fellowship wishes to thank Betty McCord, Vicky Holton, and all the people who supported the 2021 Bake Sale and Soup and Cornbread Carry Out Luncheon on November 6, 2021. Because of you it was successful in earning over \$3,000.00. And an added blessing was visiting with old friends, and making new ones! The lucky raffle winners were Krista Crass for the antique quilt donated by Rebecca Landolt, and Ruth Daughaday for the basket of seasonal party items donated by June Vander Molen, and Terry Hart for the wooden bowl handmade and donated by Bryan Warner.



CWF Noel Market

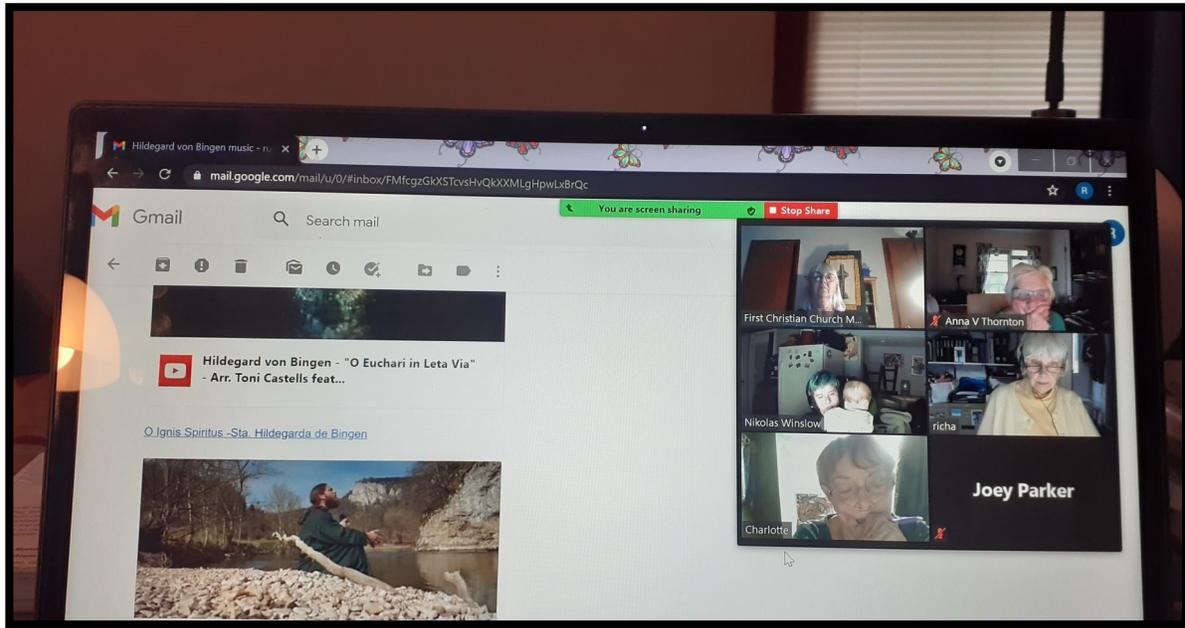


CWF Noel Market



UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERYONE (NEAR AND FAR) IS INVITED TO ATTEND OUR
MIDWEEK 'VIRTUAL' LIVE GATHERING



Most Wednesdays from 6-7:30 PM on Zoom.

(Occasionally we will meet on Tuesday or Thursday instead)

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 importance

(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

(always a piece by Carrie Newcomer and usually something in addition to that)

-Share our joys and concerns

-Close with the Lord's Prayer

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

“ASH WEDNESDAY”

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

5 PM ~ Lenten Soup and Bread Meal

6 PM ~ Ash Wednesday Service



Come for a simple meal of soup and bread in the fellowship hall as we fellowship together to begin the season of Lent and our forty-day journey to the cross. Following the meal, we will join together in the sanctuary for a contemplative worship celebration. During it we will engage in a number of spiritual practices including burden sharing through prayer rocks, the making of Lenten vows, communion, and the receiving of ashes. This is a family service, and we encourage people of all ages to attend! With this we will usher in the season of Lent.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 27, 2022

10:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary

Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, West Area Regional Minister will bring the message.



Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, West Area Regional Minister, began serving the West Area on October 1, 2019. In addition to serving the clergy and congregations of Districts 1, 2, and 3, Rachel also serves as a co-chair of the New Church Team for the Christian Church in Kentucky. She is also the church planner for Potluck Christian Church and a life-long member of First Christian Church, Madisonville. Ordained in 2001, Rachel is a graduate of Transylvania University and Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

PAST EVENTS

DONNIE HENDRIX MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, November 21, 2021



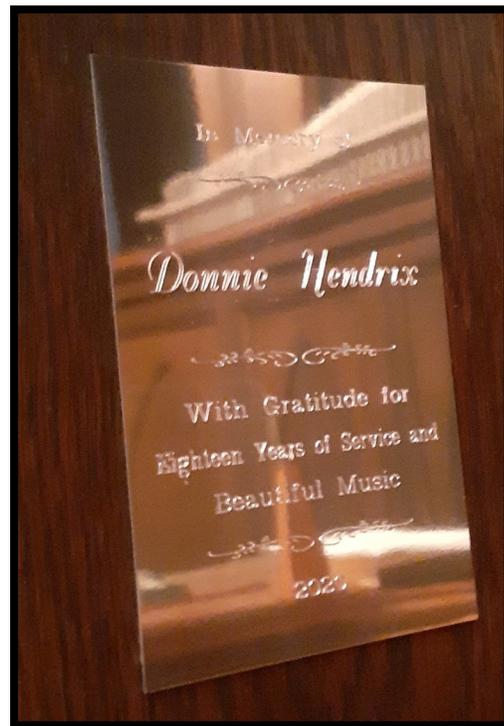
Many thanks to everyone who made the Memorial Service for Donnie Hendrix so meaningful! Special thanks to Rachel and John Hughes for their preparation of the videos that were shown during the service. They were able to incorporate the video that Elena Roberts took at Donnie's visitation and burial service along with special music that Rob Clause had videoed during worship. Following the Memorial Service, a group of about fifteen people traveled to the Roselawn Cemetery in Bardwell to share memories and place flowers at the graves of Donnie, his parents, and grandparents. We believe that Donnie, smiling down from heaven, would have been very pleased both by the Memorial Service and time at Roselawn Cemetery.



PAST EVENTS

DONNIE HENDRIX MEMORIAL SERVICE

Judy Hill remembered Donnie Hendrix during his memorial service by placing a plaque in memory of Donnie behind the organ. There is a plaque honoring Judy Hill behind the piano that Donnie Hendrix had placed. Donnie and Judy loved each other and enjoyed years of playing music with each other.

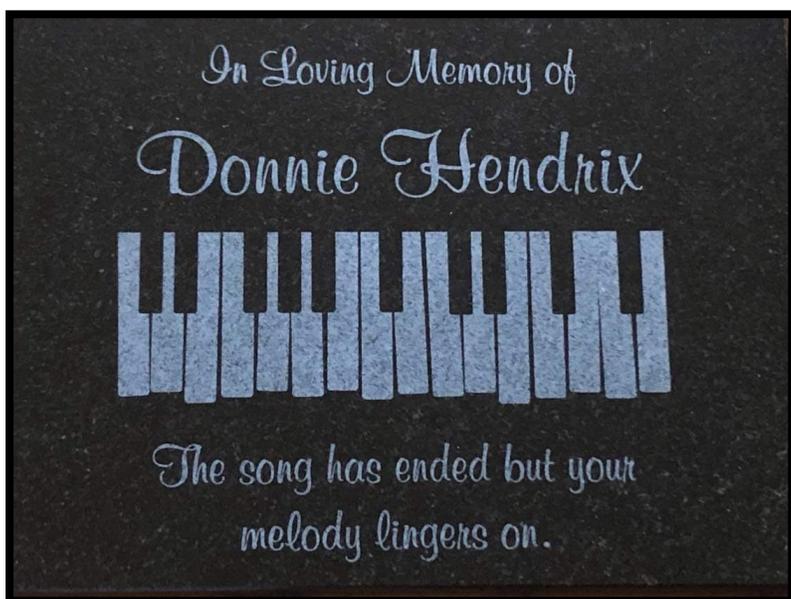


The following links are YouTube segments that were provided by Rachel Hughes for the service.

Donnie - Visitation and Memorial Service <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNqw4gUmeBA>

Donnie Hendrix - Organist & Men's Ensemble <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCEnOjqs4As>

Donnie Hendrix - Chancel Choir Accompaniment & Softly and Tenderly, Pianist <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIMryHfyxcE>



Michelle Nelson, a respiratory therapist at Pulmonary Dose who worked and was friends with Donnie Hendrix, gathered funds to dedicate a bench in his honor. The bench will be placed in central park (exact location to be determined) with the following plaque. Michelle wishes to thank all those who donated in order to create this beautiful memorial for our beloved Donnie.

PAST EVENTS

Winter Solstice Longest Night - Service of Light - December 21, 2021



Many thanks to everyone who helped make our Winter Solstice, Longest Night -Service of Light so meaningful!



JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Happy Birthday!

January

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Jordan Benton | 13 | Eliana Benton-Ragovin |
| 2 | Elizabeth Dawson Howard | | Haley Hart |
| | Bradley Marvin | 15 | Leah Ann Enzendorfer |
| 3 | David Daughaday | 16 | Brandon Daughaday |
| | Tory Daughrity | | Lyn Ryan |
| | Lily Kinsley | 17 | Henry Kwan |
| 4 | Sam Dillard | 19 | Jennifer Donnelly |
| 5 | Bryan Warner | 20 | Blake Morris |
| 10 | Leah Hart | 23 | Echo Wu Hensley |
| | | 26 | Albert Zimmerman |
| | | | Bruce Dobyns |



February

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Rick Hensley |
| 4 | Sam Allen |
| | Leah Hughes |
| 7 | Terri Benton |
| 9 | Eli McKeel |
| 10 | Rebecca Landolt |
| 11 | Lisa Allen |
| | Gary Darnell |
| 14 | Katie Allen |
| 15 | Alison Epperson |
| 18 | Dwight Willis |
| 22 | Angela Gierhart |
| 28 | Roger Dawson |

March

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Mark Dycus | 21 | Haval Latif |
| 3 | Rose Donnelly | 22 | Aidan Nichols |
| 7 | Stacy Fulton Humes | | John Roark |
| 8 | Krista Crass | | Amy Roos |
| 9 | Nancy Dycus | 23 | Patsy King |
| 15 | Lillian Gierhart | 25 | Henry Hart |
| | Terry Hart | 28 | Madison Grace Garland |
| | Elizabeth Roberts | 30 | Julie Warner |
| | Ava Rodenberg | 31 | Jackie Underwood |
| 20 | Mallory Cathey Looney | | |
| | Mike Cathey | | |

Happy Anniversary!

February

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 14 | Greg & Lillian Gierhart |
| 23 | John & Jan Fuqua |
| 24 | Sonny & Julie Warner |
| 25 | Albert & Emily Zimmerman |

March

| | |
|----|----------------------|
| 17 | Eric & Dee Roberts |
| 23 | Marty & Karen Dunham |
| 24 | Scott & Julie McKeel |

JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS

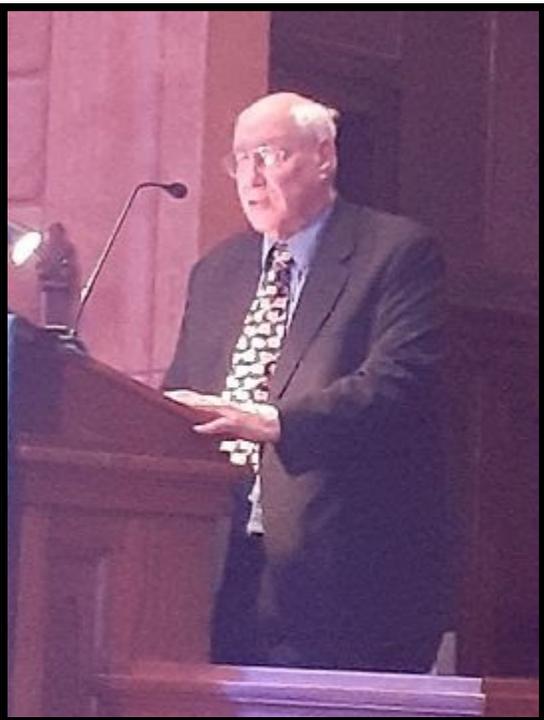
Special Music shared during worship



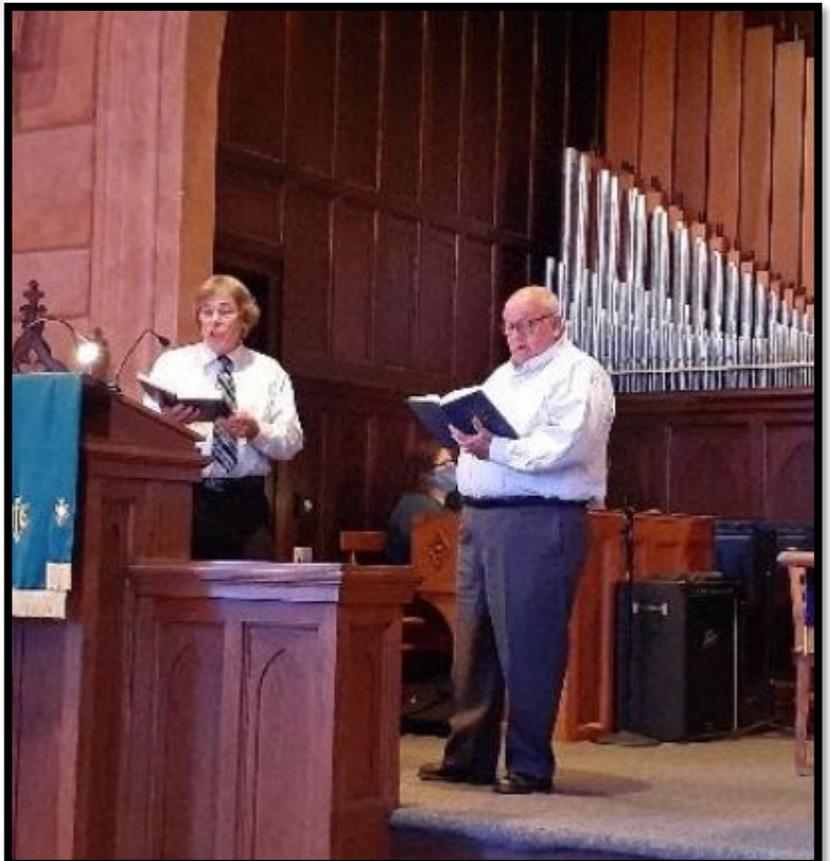
Amy Roos and Mark Dycus sing "There is a Balm in Gilead" on October 31



Brent Webster plays "Meditation" by William Coulter October 17



Doug Vander Molen sings "On Eagle's Wings" November 14



Terry Hart and Mark Dycus sing on October 3

JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our ability to purchase 17 Thanksgiving meals for people in our community, to *Rebecca Landolt* for working with Food Giant to get these assembled, and to *Rebecca Landolt* and *Bradley Dawson* for delivering them to Need Line!



JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS



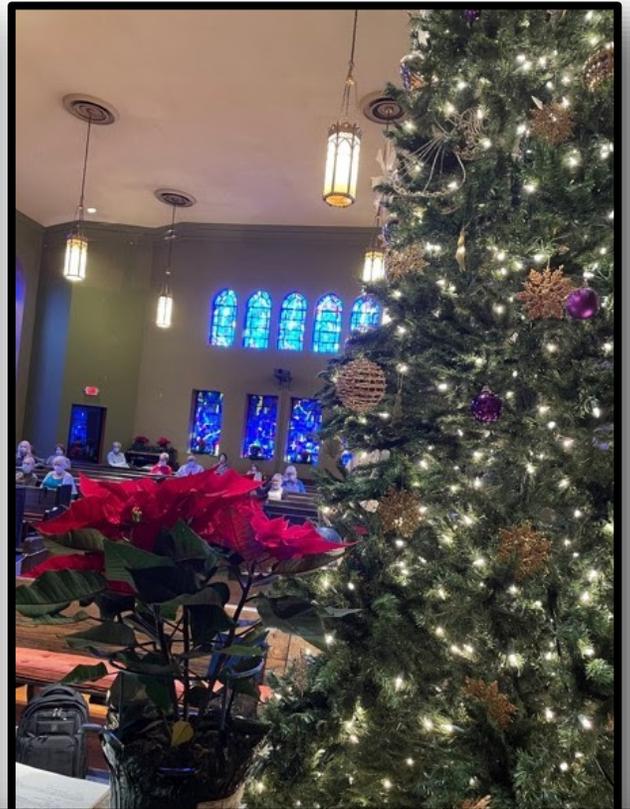
Thank you to all of you who brought blankets and warm coats and sweaters for the Mayfield community. They were delivered by *Bryan Warner* and *Ann Thornton* to Mayfield. Bryan and Ann, with the church van, also helped with distribution of needed items at Second Christian Church in Mayfield.



Many thanks to everyone who helped wrap Christmas gifts at Lake Barkley State Park for children whose families were affected by the recent tornados. FCC Murray joined together with folks from FCC in Paducah as well as St. John's Episcopal Church in Murray. In the first photo you can see *Mark Dycus*. In the second you can see *Rev. Amanda Groves*, *June* and *Derek Vander Molen*, and *Father Zeb Treloar* from St. John's. *Mark Dycus*, *Bryan Warner*, and *Cadelia Turpin* from our church also participated.

Joys and Thanksgivings

Many thanks to *Mike and Sarah Kerrick* and about 15 *Murray Christian Fellowship* students who came and helped to put up the Christmas tree and decorate our sanctuary this year! Special thanks to *Jean and Don Bennett, Vicky Holton, Betty McCord, and Mark Dycus* for helping to oversee the decorating. The sanctuary looked so beautiful! Many thanks to *Ann Thornton, Sharon Rue, and Judy Nichols* for preparing a meal for the students.



The children's Sunday School class also enjoyed in decorating their classroom for the 2021 Advent season.

JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Several families in the congregation participated this advent season by the lighting of advent candles during church worship services.



JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Babies Born



Congratulations to Martha and Don Chamberlain in the birth of their new grandson! *Leo Harris Chamberlain* was born in Nashville to Lori and Mark Chamberlain on Monday, December 6, 2021, weighing 7 pounds, 13 oz. and was 20 inches long. Leo has continued to thrive!



Holding baby sister



Congratulations to Bianca Youngman on the birth of her daughter, *Celine Alexandria Duffy*, on October 15, 2021. "Alex" as they now call her, weighted 7 lbs and 19 inches long. Older sister Maddie adores her!

JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Weddings



Hannalore Clause and Allen Moore were married on October 9, 2021 in Louisville, KY. The bride is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a BS in Civil Engineering and an MBA. The groom is also a UK graduate with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. The couple reside in Shelbyville, KY. Parents of the bride are Joyce and Rob Clause and her brother is Nate. Elizabeth (Dawson) Howard was one of the bridesmaids.



Pastor Ruth had the joy of officiating at the wedding of ***Amber Parker and Nicholas Newsome*** on November 29, 2021 in Paducah. If you look carefully, you can see Amber's brother Joey Parker in the mirror!

JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS



Congratulations to *Rasha Khalil* and her five children, who received political asylum on December 16, 2021 in Chicago after about a five-year process. Thanks to all who prayed for her and helped in this process. We are thrilled that they are on a path to citizenship!



***Lisa Kindall* is now walking with the help of a walker on her two prosthetic legs (which she has named 'Moe' and 'Joe'). You may see a short video of her walking on our church's Facebook page.**

JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS



Congratulations to *Tamara Abo Al Haija*, who graduated in December from Murray State University Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in psychology and advertising. Unfortunately, the recent tornado prevented the university from hosting their graduation ceremony on December 11. It has been postponed until May. Tamara started graduate school at MSU in January to get her Masters in Health Care Administration.



Letters and Thank- You Notes to Murray FCC Congregation

Dear FCC Murray Family,

October, 2021

I wanted to write you and express my eternal gratitude for sponsoring my ordination and for being an integral part in making it a special and glorious day for me and all those who attended.

I will cherish the gifts that were presented to me, and I want you to know that I have included the beautiful card with everyone's signatures in the framing of my ministerial degree and certificates. This way, I will always be reminded of the love and support that you have showed me and will strive to model it each and every day of my ministry.

May God bless you always and give you peace,

Rev. Amanda Groves

Hello,

12-13-2021

I did not know where else to send this and I am sure your church is doing what it can to help the people in Mayfield and Western Kentucky who have been affected by the tornado. It's not much, but it will help some. Please use it toward food, shelter or other needs of the people who have lost everything.

I raised my children in Murray and in your church. Many years ago I served as a Deacon under Pastor Roos. Thank you for your help.

In our Lord's Service,

Cathi Culek

To the Church Family:

1-11-2022

I appreciate all you have done for us this past year. Thank you for your prayers for my son in law, James Redd. We really appreciate all you have done. You make me smile when I think of you.

Love,

Phyllis Duckworth and Brandon Redd

January, 2022

The FCC Staff wishes to thank the church members for their generosity reflected in our Christmas bonuses. We truly appreciate the gifts!

Pastor Ruth, Mark Dycus, Aimee Bailey & Katelyn Crane

OUTREACH REPORT

From Melanie Dawson, Outreach Chair

During the months of October through December 2021, our church participated in the following outreach efforts:

Contributed money (\$250) to Laundry Love for the month of October. 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 Callo way schools. We still partner with St. John's Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church for Laundry Love.

Delivered food to Need Line for 15 Thanksgiving Boxes and two boxes within our church.

Delivered 300 frostings to Need Line for Christmas baskets.

Contributed \$200 each to the 2021 Laker Christmas and Tiger Christmas Programs.

Provided monetary Christmas gifts/help to members of our congregation (\$1000).

Took up donations for HOPE Calloway (Homeless Coalition) at the Longest Night Service (approximately \$350).

Continued to collect "Week of Compassion" offering to help with the tornado victims. \$1000 was provided from Outreach Designated Fund and there were additional donations from the congregation, including through our Alternative Gifts program.

Ongoing Outreach activities as seen in our weekly emails:

Green Needline 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.

OUTREACH

Upcoming activities:

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

Continue to collect “Week of Compassion” offering to help with local tornado victims.

Alternative Gift Catalog

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

The Backpack Program will be in February 2022. You can donate either to the Souper Bowl of Car-ing offering on Super Bowl Sunday or put “Backpack program” on the memo line of your check. In 2020, we assembled approximately 500 paper sacks to be delivered to the school systems. In 2021 due to COVID, we delivered the food to Need Line for them to assemble and disseminate to the school systems. We aren’t sure how they will be done this year, but it takes about \$1200 to buy supplies for these paper sacks for a two-week period to be delivered to the children in the Murray Preschool, Murray Elementary, Calloway Preschool, and Calloway Elementary schools.



Laurel Gray filled the blessings box on Jan 17, 2022 -MLK Day!

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

Murray, KY 42071

Murray, KY 42071

