



Miller in the Middle

May brings the natural beauty of spring to a peak, although that often means a peak of allergies as well. I can't forecast the weather, not even the air quality, but I can project some expectations for Sunday worship services.

On May 2, we'll have multiple readers presenting the scripture lesson from Psalm 104, which prompts the question, "Are You a Good Steward of Creation?"

On May 9, which is Mother's Day, we'll post photos of mothers past and present on our Facebook page, and the sermon will ask, "Are You Kin to Jesus?"

On May 16, which is Mental Health Sunday, the sermon will ask, "Are You in Trouble?" By the way, following our service, I'll be interviewing Rev. Mike Delaney for the Facebook group called Northern Kentucky Social-Emotional Learning (NKY SEL) regarding "What I Wish I Could Tell My Younger Self About Mental Health." If you have comments about this question, I'd love to hear from you.

May 23 is Pentecost Sunday, so the sermon title, based on Acts 2 is "Starting a New Church."

And May 30 is both Promotion Sunday and Youth Sunday, a day to honor and recognize young people passing from one stage to the next in their development, and to follow their leadership in worship. Allie Shaffer will present her "senior sermon" that day.

Our attendance swelled to 140 for Easter and has held at 63-64 the past couple of Sundays. Double-vaccinated people are returning to worship in person, and I'm enjoying meeting more of you face-to-face, or at least, eye-to-eye!

If you haven't yet made it back to worship in person, I hope you'll be able to do so soon. There's spiritual energy when we are together that can't be cloned in a virtual, online experience, as valuable as that is for those who cannot join us. If we continue to act responsibly, I'm sure we'll continue moving toward more personal engagement in many aspects of our life together.

—Phil Miller





May



SUN

MON

TUES

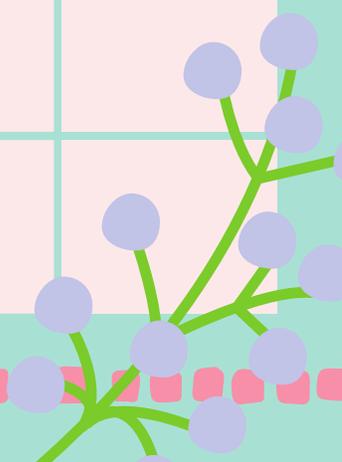
WED

THURS

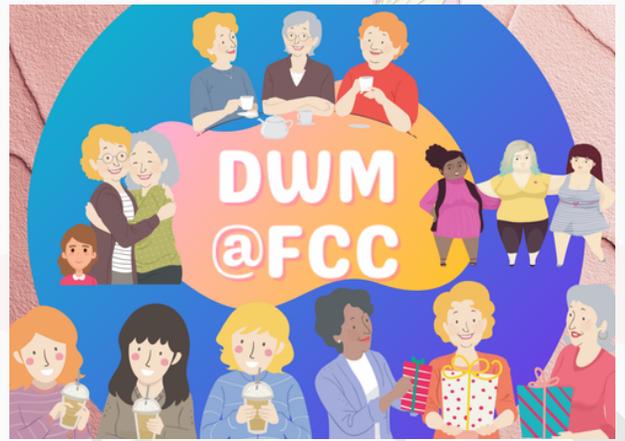
FRI

SAT

							1
2	3 6:00 Craft Class	4 10:00 Staff Meeting	5 Yoga @ 8:30 Search Committee Meets	6	7	8	
9 10:40 Worship Service 4:00 Young Disciples 5:30 Youth	10 6:00 Craft Class	10:00 Staff Meeting	12 Yoga @ 8:30 7:00 Elders' Meeting	13	14	15	
16 10:40 Worship Service 4:00 Young Disciples 5:30 Youth	17 6:00 Craft Class	18 10:00 Staff Meeting	19 Yoga @ 8:30 7:00 Board Meeting	20	21 Deadline for June Courier	22	
23 10:40 Worship Service 4:00 Young Disciples 5:30 Youth	24 6:00 Craft Class	25 10:00 Staff Meeting	26 Yoga @ 8:30	27	28	29	
30 Children & Youth Promotion Sunday 10:40 No Youth or Kids Groups	31						



Our Church Community



Mother's Day Celebration May 9th, 2021

Join us as we celebrate mothers, mother figures, grandmothers, and important women in our lives on this special Sunday. We will also be creating a special Mother's Day slideshow, so send in those precious photos and info!



DWM Event

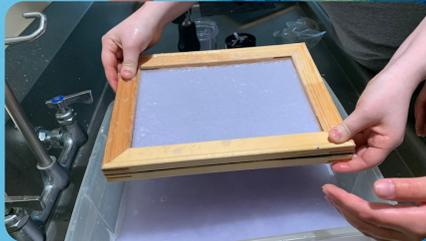
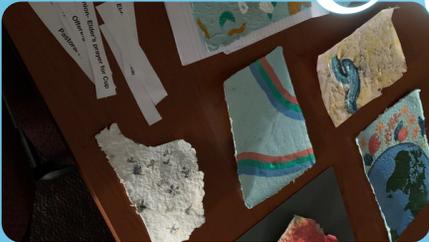
Boone Tavern

Thursday, June 24th @ 6PM

\$25- 3 Menu Options Available: Hot Brown, Chicken in Hat, Vegetarian
With salad or dessert.

RSVP Due Date for reservations is 6/13/21
Contact Margaret in the Church Office to RSVP

Earth Sunday



Children & Youth studied stewardship during April, and in celebration of Earth Sunday, created handmade paper infused with real dried flowers and seeds. The paper can be used as bible bookmarks or cards, and is plantable! The children also went on a walk around the church to find the beauty in God's creations and created their own art with things they found!



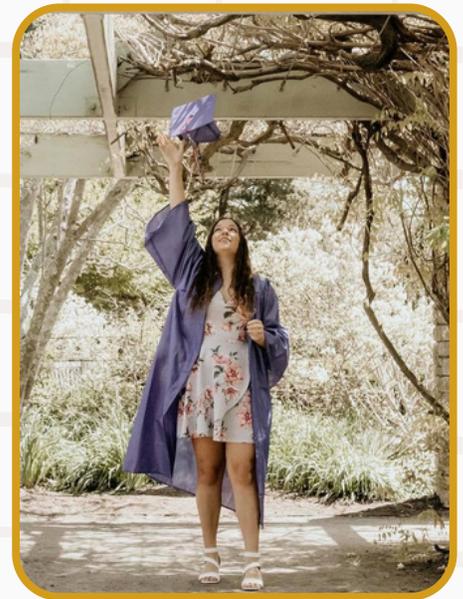
CONGRATS



Maddy Pearson December 2020 Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences
Future plans: Attend Physician Assistant Graduate program



Lauren Stapp graduated in December of 2020 from the University of Kentucky School of Nursing with a BSN degree. She resides in Lexington and is employed by UK Health Care as a nurse in the Emergency Department.



Allie Shaffer is Valedictorian of her graduating class at Model, and a member of the National Honors Society and National Honors Art Society. She has selected Georgetown College - scholarships: Choral Scholars, Oxford Honors, Christian Scholars, and Athletics for golf.

Dr. Hayley Childers

Dr. Hayley Childers, wife of church member Lt. Hunter Childers, received her doctor of optometry degree from Indiana University in Bloomington on May 7. Hunter is the son of Amy and Joe Childers and grandson of Martha and John Davidson. Lt. Childers is on active duty with the Kentucky National Guard in California.

**WE ARE SO HAPPY TO
CELEBRATE THE GRADUATES
IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY!
JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
THEM IN-PERSON ON MAY
30TH!**



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jack Brandenburg	May 4
Megan Brandenburg	May 4
Sandy Clark	May 4
Luke Fichetola	May 4
Tanner Jones	May 6
Susan Willis	May 6
Peggy Coy	May 7
Carol Westerfield	May 8
Hank Everman	May 8
Melissa Agee	May 9
Margaret Story	May 9
Laura Brauner	May 11
Chase Daniel	May 13
Nathan Robinson	May 18
Harold Pearson	May 19
Christy Fortney	May 20
Eleanor McKinney	May 22
Olivia Florell	May 23
Kathryn Power	May 23
Harold Renfro	May 23
Regan Cormney	May 24
Carolyn Curtis	May 25
Taylor Ballinger	May 26
Freida Brown	May 27
Rick Congleton	May 28
Ryan Gordon	May 28
Connie Adams	May 30
Elin Gullett	May 30
Norman Graves	May 30
Betsy Grise	May 30
Ronan Maloney	May 31



Baby News!!

Congratulations to Robbie and Tara Grise of Florence, KY on the birth of their son, Garrett Thomas Grise, born March 18. He is welcomed home by his big brother, Will. The proud grandparents are Betsy Grise and Owen Grise.

Caroline Ridings and Jeff Daugherty welcome their daughter, Georgia May Daugherty, who was born on April 16. The proud grandparents are George and Judy Ridings, Jr. Congratulations to all!!



We also want to extend our congratulations to Kendall Stapp on her recent engagement!

Community

Let's Get Crafty for a Cause!

Join us on Monday evenings in May as we work on a special craft activity that we will be donating to be sold at the Bazaar!



Achievements to Celebrate!



**May 2 Kay Stapp
Marc Robbins**

May 9 Mike Gordon
Joe Rice

**May 16 Sheila Miller
Betsy Grise**

May 23 Skip Daugherty
Sharla Davidson

**May 30 John Davidson
Kim DeCoste**

Elder Serving Schedule

Parents, students, and families- we will be recognizing our graduates on May 30th during a special moment in the service. We would love to have photos and information about each graduate we have had in the last 12 months to share on our online site and our livestream as well. E-mail info to emily@fccrichmond.com

Financial Update

Reminder- if you weren't able to or forgot to turn in your yearly pledge card, please contact the church office and we can assist you with this!



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please visit our church website or check your E-News, or call the church to update your information. You can also submit a photo of yourself and each family member. We want to make sure we have the correct info for you as we work to migrate our communications to the newer program we have been using! Thanks!

April 2021 FCC Courier Info			
2021	Attendance	Weekly Giving	YTD Giving
4/5/2021	122	\$ 8,230.00	\$ 102,795.00
4/12/2021	40	\$ 7,935.00	\$ 110,730.00
4/19/2021	63	\$ 3,551.25	\$ 114,281.25
4/26/2021	64	\$ 4,346.00	\$ 118,627.25
Total Giving		\$ 24,062.25	



Celebrating our Children & Youth

2020 made our plans to spark new life in our children's and youth ministry programs more difficult than we ever imagined- we tried different approaches and ways to connect- but with busy families and digital burn-out, it was very challenging. There were so many milestones we didn't get to celebrate with our congregation- of course our graduates, but also those children who moved from nursery to our children's program, from our children's program to our Youth group, and more. We want to recognize and affirm these moments, these rights of passage, for our children and youth. We invite all parents and guardians to let us know if your child/children have had milestone such as those mentioned above in the past year, and invite them to be present on May 30th for a special recognition moment in our church service. We will be handing out special momentos such as Bibles and devotionals at certain milestones as well. Thanks- if you have questions, email emily@fccrichmond.com.

Young Disciples



Our K-5th grade group, Young Disciples, continues to meet on Sunday afternoons from 4-5:15. We invite children to join us for fun and fellowship, God, and games! We will be helping to plan for the May 30th Youth & Children's Sunday event soon- so make sure to attend so you can learn how we will be involved!

We will be learning more about the Order of Worship, parts of worship, and why we do the things we do at church. We will talk about and learn about our history as a denomination and what it means to be a Christian in today's world. Lots of fun games & activities as well!

While our church nursery has been reopened for a while, we have now started a program for children during the worship service that will begin in early May. This is a modified Children's Church program with elements of Sunday School mixed in! This program is to ensure we are still connecting with our kids during this time of transition and change and providing faith formation opportunities. We are opening this to children ages 4-12, and we will continue this program until the end of our summer session. For more details as we have them, check our Facebook page and website!

New! Children's Church!



YOUTH SUNDAY- MAY 30TH- MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW. SOMETHING DIFFERENT!



Camp registration forms for children, youth, and volunteers are now available. Additional information is on our website and the regional church website.



YOUTH

Hi everyone! Lots of stuff being planned for the next few months! Youth Sunday is on the schedule for May 30th. Planning is underway and the youth seem to be excited to show you all how they worship. I am planning a lock in 2 weeks before youth Sunday on the 14th to finish any planning and to rehearse their parts, as well as have some fun before the end of the year! There is also a camp work day on the 15th for those that are interested.



Prayer Concerns

Recent: The family and friends of Peggy Rice, Family and friends of Jim and Lolly Harris, Sharla Davidson, Bill Curwood, Betty Blakemore, Jimmy Lynch, Bob Turpin (Billy Glenn Turpin's brother), Jennifer Neal (Ronnie & Mary Jane Ginter's daughter), Mike Sills, Raisa Lynn Mohon, (Rebecca Hall Davis' granddaughter), Stephen Robbins (Glenn & Jayne Birkett's nephew)

Ongoing: John Baker, Patricia Beck, Pearl Biggin, David Cosby, Laura Cruse, Elizabeth Duerson, Ed Ford, Ronnie Ginter, Kay Jones, Jeffery King,, Jean Metcalf, Kathryn Power, Julia Ramey, Angie Rhodus, Norma Robinson, Aaron Stidham, Martha Witt

Family: Wanda Dixon (Gina Dixon's mother-in-law), Margaret Grindstaff, Patricia Hicks (Joe Rice's mother), Matti Houndshell (Karen Tillie's sister), Kenny Jones, (Kevin Jones' brother), Carol Kinzer (Scott Browder's mother), Butch Lane (Jackie Goucher's brother-in-law), Betty McLocklin Morris (sister to Martha Craft and Peggy Coy), Mike Morgan (Heather Shepherd's cousin), Charleen Powers (Anna Land's sister), Leona Stark (Frank Abraham's mother), Kimberly Stephens (Gina Dixon's sister), Susan Waters (Richard Waters' mother)

Friends: Angela Blair (friend of Lisa Gamble), Susan Long (friend of Jennifer Brandenburg)

In Loving Memory...

David M. Jones

Given by: Jim & Lolly Harris, Bill & Elizabeth Robinson, Billy Glenn & Mimi Turpin,

Anna Fox

Given by: Laura Sizemore

Peggy Rice

Given by: Rita & Richard Smart, Joy Chanley, Jason & Christal Chanley, Jennifer King, Billy Glenn & Mimi Turpin, Fanny Rice, Bob & Jane Herbst, Nancye Spicer, Donna Poindexter, Ralph & Marilyn Hacker, Jane, Billy & Clara Parrish

Ray Mac Edwards

Given by: Billy Glenn & Mimi Turpin, Billy & Nancy Thames, Ken & Jan Tunnell, Ralph & Marilyn Hacker, Jane, Billy & Clara Parrish, Jim & Jan Barnes

Eight members attended the Board meeting on April 28 in person, in addition to four members via Zoom. A total of 12 achieved a quorum. Two non-members attended in person as well as three staff members. Treasurer Joe Rice presented the financial reports. He noted that the church is behind in giving and that expenses have exceeded income thus far this year, the PPP loan is still in the process of receiving forgiveness, and a substantial amount of funding is in departmental reserves.

Board Chair Reid Singleton commended Edwin Luxon for work on several property projects, including the lights in the banquet hall. He also reported on the significant progress in purchasing and installing audio-visual equipment to improve our online transmission of worship services.

Phil Miller reported on the Holy Week and Easter worship services and in-person attendance. He also presented A Roadmap for Interim Ministry, a graphic now posted in the Loggia. This poster illustrates the path through a transitional period with some of the steps to expect along the way. Soon he will appoint a Transition Team, which will set goals for the interim time. For example, these goals may be about communication, identity, outreach, and visioning. This work will likely overlap with the Epiphany process stemming from the assessment by the Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation two years ago. The Transition Team will prepare the Search Team for writing the Congregational Profile by researching the hopes, dreams, and gifts of the congregation.

Reid also reviewed the accomplishments of Room at the Inn (MadisonHome) in housing and feeding 127 individuals 4700 meals through the winter months. Kudos to Kathy Congleton for managing the volunteers from First Christian!



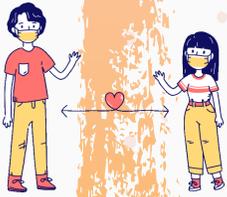
The Board discussed the role of the Health Safety Assessment Team (HSAT) in light of the progress in vaccinations. Given the age of a large portion of the church membership, the Board reaffirmed the role of the HSAT in explaining the guidelines of DCD scientists, as well as governmental and denominational leaders, regarding precautions.

*Search
Committee*



At Wednesday evening's Board Meeting, Reid Singleton, Chair, presented the following names to the Board for the membership of a Search Committee to eventually recommend a candidate for our next Senior Minister. The Board agreed. They are Martha Cobb, Kathy Congleton, Jill Cornelison, Skip Daugherty, Lyndsey Mullins, Clayton Oswald, Joe Rice, Susan Willis, and Glenn Birkett, Chair. Serving as ex officio members are Reid Singleton and Emily Fritz. The Committee plans to begin their preliminary work as soon as possible. We are grateful for their willingness to accept this assignment during this critical time in the life of our congregation. Please pray for them as they begin – and as they continue!

Health & Safety Updates



In consultation with the Health and Safety Team, we will begin to allow the congregation to sing the CLOSING HYMN during our worship service. Everyone must remain masked while singing; the words to the Closing Hymn will be included in the bulletin.

It is important to stress that this ONLY applies to the Closing Hymn. Current safety protocols recommend that group singing can safely take place when everyone is socially distanced, masked, and in the same room for no more than 30 minutes. Singing all three hymns would exceed the 30-minute guideline.

It is our hope that singing the Closing Hymn together will provide everyone with a greater sense of participation and ownership in the service, as well as restore a layer of normalcy to our worship experience, without sacrificing anyone's safety.



First Christian Church

RICHMOND KENTUCKY DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

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**Non Profit Org.
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