

# ECHOES

"Woodland Christian Church is an open and affirming, dynamic community of faith. We are inspired by Jesus to practice radical hospitality and unconditional love. As children of God, we strive to care for the earth as we serve others. We respect each individual's journey as we grow together in faith."



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## A word from Christy Jo



Earth, ourselves,  
breathe and awaken,  
leaves are stirring,  
all things moving,  
new day coming,  
life renewing.  
-Pawnee Prayer\*

On the first Sunday of October churches from around the world celebrate World Communion Sunday. From our many places of worship across the globe this Sunday we will remember our responsibility to bear with one another in love, to maintain unity by the bond of peace, and our call to be the body of Christ in the world.

Jesus knew the power of gathering around tables, this is where much of his ministry took place. The folks who gathered around tables with Jesus came to hear stories about God's love.

They came for the healing of their bodies.  
They came for the comfort of their souls.  
They came for relief from their oppressors.  
That was the kind of bread they longed for.  
The kind of hospitality they dreamt of.

The same is true for us today. We begin co-creating the kingdom of God when we dare to expand our hearts and tables with grace, peace, and love.

\*From A Grateful Heart: 365 Ways to Give Thanks at Mealtime  
Edited by M.J. Ryan

In this season, God has brought resources, partnerships, and people to our table so that we might continue growing together in beautiful and sustaining ways. I give thanks to our Elders and Board who have been faithfully praying, discerning, and working to listen to God through each step of the process. And I give thanks to each of you for the light and gifts you share to make our church a beautiful expression of God's healing light and love.

In the following pages you will hear from Gary Barksdale about the many ways God is calling us to expand our building and our ministry staff so that we might grow together and live well into our mission of living love and loving all. I look forward to our congregational meeting on October 16 following worship as an opportunity to celebrate the new things God is doing in our midst.

In the spirit of celebrating World Communion Sunday may we continue to build bigger tables in our hearts and minds, and at Woodland Christian Church so all might be transformed by the love of Jesus the Christ.

*love liberates,  
pastor christy jo*



The Best Supper © Jan L. Richardson

## Woodland Update

Our season of growth continues! Winterwood has now applied for funding for our building project. This was our second big milestone! The first was signing the option to lease. We expect to learn in January or February how much our project is awarded. For now, we prayerfully wait. On page five you will see a rendering of what the affordable senior housing addition is projected to look like.

We are excited to welcome Brandon Stroup as our Music Director. His first Sunday with us will be October 23. We look forward to Brandon sharing his many gifts of music with us!

During our last Congregational Meeting, in July, I shared that the Board has been discussing the addition of a part-time Associate Pastor – a topic the board also discussed during Pastor Dalene Vasbinder’s tenure.

When the draft budget was presented to the Congregation this summer, I informed everyone that the position was being actively considered but was still under discussion at that time. Additionally, the part-time Associate Minister position was not made a part of the operating budget because funds had been donated “to grow the church ministry,” and therefore, could be used for this purpose without the need for any additional fundraising. Those funds were kept separate in our “Designated Receipts” and were not made a part of the operating budget.

Again, a couple of weeks ago, I shared more exciting news about the many “new things” happening at Woodland including the board’s vote to call a part-time Associate Pastor.

We are very excited to share that Chloe Specht has accepted the call to serve as our part-time Associate Pastor. She received her Master of Divinity from Asbury University and continues the ordination process in Kentucky. Chloe will begin her ministry with us as a Commissioned Minister to Woodland Christian Church while she continues the process of ordination and seeks the approval of the Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in KY.

I can feel and see growth happening each week. We are growing both in size and clarity in our role as a healing church. Both spiritual and physical healing is certainly happening now. We are very blessed to have both Brandon and Chloe joining us this fall as we continue to grow into all God is calling us to be and become.

This is no time to be tentative about investing in our future. The addition of the part-time Associate Pastor is one of the most strategic moves we can make. This position was developed over several months of consultation with the Pastor, the Elders, and the Board. We also consulted with our Regional Pastor who approves our process for adding an Associate Pastor.

Duties included within the job description include, but are not limited to the following:

- Create and coordinate a strengthened Christian formation/education program for children, youth, and adults, in collaboration with the Pastor and lay leaders, including opportunities for service and outreach through immersion trips, retreats, and camp experiences.
- Work with volunteer leaders to grow and strengthen intergenerational ministry for children, youth, and adults.
- Will preach every 4 to 6 weeks and have an active role in worship.
- Teach Bible Study as time allows.
- Offer pastoral care.
- Build and maintain our online social media presence on Facebook and Instagram.
- Participate in board and elder meetings.
- Associate Pastor will be supervised/mentored by our Senior Pastor and will have additional duties assigned as appropriate.

Qualifications for this position include:

- Commitment to the Christian Faith
- Passion for and experience developing relationships with all ages and overseeing Christian education.
- Strong commitment to personal, professional, and spiritual growth:
- Ordained (or on the Disciples of Christ ordination track) with ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Experience on a church staff preferred.

Compensation for the Associate Pastor:

- Monthly base salary of \$2000
- A relocation expense reimbursement of \$1500
- A work-related cell phone reimbursement
- Work-related mileage reimbursement as allowed by IRS regulations
- Discretionary time away from work is also provided. Time away will be coordinated by the Senior Pastor and the Associate Pastor is accountable to ensure that the job is done in a timely and quality manner.

Chloe will begin serving as our Associate Pastor in November, working eight months in this fiscal year. The impact on spending is \$16,000 in salary, plus the \$1500 relocation expense. Budget dollars allocated to a Youth Director will be reallocated to this position. While future funding will come from the property expense saving once Winterwood takes over all maintenance next year.

At the time, the Board did not realize that such an expense would exceed five percent of the annual budget, and therefore must come before the congregation for approval. Pastor Christy Jo and the Board will be asking for your support to approve the salary package for the Associate Pastor and to affirm Chloe's call as our Associate Pastor during the October 16 congregational meeting.

Please let me or any member of the Board, Elders, or Pastor know of your questions.

Gary Barksdale

Moderator



Rendering of affordable senior housing addition

## Green Chalice

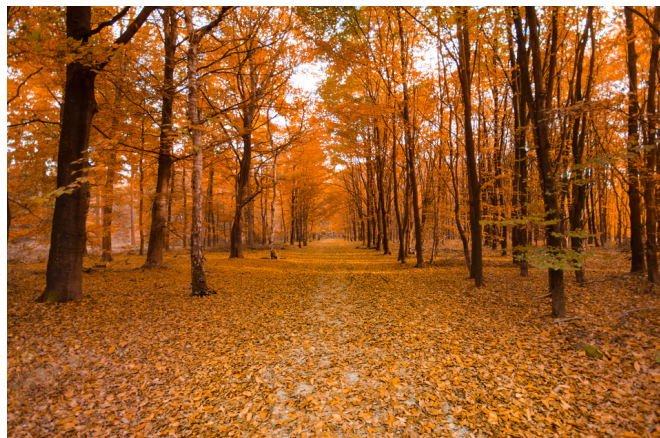
### It's Fall Y'all!

October is the heart of change in the natural world. Think trees and leaves. That's what the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is doing during Tree Week and its Urban Forest Initiative, Oct. 8-16. Events are scheduled all over Lexington. Ranging from a Tour of Woodland Park's Unusual Trees to Yoga Under the Trees at the Henry Clay Estate, these events are for all ages. A few examples of hands-on activities include mulching trees properly, planting trees, coloring and writing about trees. The UK Student Government Association is even showing *The Lorax* movie at the Student Center's Worsham Cinema. To find the complete schedule of events go to <https://ufi.ca.uky.edu/treeweek>. Our Creator God would certainly approve!

GOD would also approve of the Lexington Chamber Chorale's concert on October 9 and Faith Lutheran's Piano Music Inspired by Trees & Nature, student recital on Oct. 15.

To kick off Tree Week, the Lexington Chamber Chorale presents 'Beauty of the Natural World,' Oct. 9 at 5:00PM at Second Presbyterian Church. According to Director Gary Anderson, the concert explores music written about the natural beauty of Kentucky and beyond our borders. One section will focus on the fragility of our beautiful land and how "we belong to the earth—the earth does not belong to us." If you like choral music and want to enjoy Tree Week in a musical way, this event is for you. Please see Conley Salyer for tickets.

Both concerts are kid-friendly and accessible to all abilities.



## JOY

JOY is traveling to Trackside at the Depot in Paris, KY for lunch on **Wednesday, October 12**. We will have lunch around 11:45am and we will discuss what we would like to explore while we're in the area. Paris is a fun place with many things to do nearby. We hope you can JOYn us for another grand, JOYful time.

If you would like to carpool, meet at church at 10:45AM to gather and organize rides. **RSVP** by Monday, October 10 to Vicki, [vevaughn29@gmail.com](mailto:vevaughn29@gmail.com), or Jacqueline, [jackie@diachun.com](mailto:jackie@diachun.com).



Smithtown Seafood Lunch

## Poetry Night



Thursday, October 6 at  
7PM on Zoom

[bit.ly/WCCPoetryNight](https://bit.ly/WCCPoetryNight)  
Meeting ID: 863 0471 8027  
Dial in: +1-312-626-6799

Join us for a candlelit evening of sharing your favorite poetry from the comfort of your home. We invite you for fellowship and to share an original or a favorite poem or two. When you arrive (log into Zoom), private message Alicia and she will add you to the performers list.

**Mother's Day**  
**by Crystal Wilkinson**  
**Kentucky's Poet Laureate**

Last night  
 i dreamed  
 my son joined a gang  
 A gang  
 one million strong  
 This gang  
 these brothers  
 spoke Swahili  
 Spanish  
 & street talk  
 & nobody was afraid

This gang walked around  
 in broad daylight  
 & after midnight  
 dreadlocked  
 cornrowed  
 hair kinky crazy  
 & nobody pointed their pistols

This gang  
 they wore kente durags  
 around their foreheads  
 cowries around their necks  
 didn't take no shit  
 & nobody was afraid

This gang  
 one million strong  
 These sons  
 were intelligent  
 educable  
 like they always been  
 & nobody said they were not able

This gang  
 they were the future  
 doctors  
 lawyers  
 teachers  
 poets  
 all about the business  
 of being correct  
 & nobody was afraid

This gang  
 they walked the streets  
 in great numbers  
 & nobody cuddled their purses

This gang  
 they stood up  
 & spoke up  
 when justice showed  
 its true colors  
 & the swat team didn't come

This gang  
 they went to schools  
 where no teachers made them feel  
 worth less or like criminals  
 & nobody cried rape

This gang  
 they praised god  
 their way  
 & remembered ancestors  
 in old as time ceremonies  
 & nobody was afraid

They  
 beat drums  
 They beat drums  
 & beat drums  
 & nobody was afraid

This gang  
 sang their  
 warrior songs  
 baritone voices  
 stirring all those  
 with ears bent  
 & nobody was afraid

Last night  
 i dreamed  
 by son joined a gang  
 a gang  
 one million strong  
 This morning  
 i woke up  
 said a prayer  
 & prepared him  
 for another day  
 in fayette county public schools  
 & was very much afraid





## Dear Woodland

Dear Woodland Community Group,  
Your donation of \$160 on 8/12 to Lexington Humane Society in memory of Jangles is greatly appreciated. Your gift allows us to provide exceptional care for the thousands of animals who look to us for help each year. You allow us to Give Love, Teach Love, and Adopt Love. We truly appreciate your generosity, are honored by your support, and thank you for your kindness.

With gratitude,  
Susan Malcomb  
President

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JOY Group,

I had so much fun showing all of you our little flower farm! Thank you for taking the time to come out & visit with me. And thank you so much for your generous check! You all are so kind. We appreciate each of you more than you know!

Love,  
Gray Arbor Farm




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**Congratulations to Rev. Larry Metzger! Rev. Larry now serves as the Director of Music of First Christian Church of Georgetown, KY! We wish him and Kathy peace and blessings on their new chapter!**

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## Sunday Mornings

**Join us in person or virtually for worship!**

**Fellowship at 9:30AM**

**Worship at 10:00AM**

[bit.ly/WoodlandZoomWorship](https://bit.ly/WoodlandZoomWorship)

Meeting ID: 817 9112 1920

Dial in: +1-312-626-6799





# October Birthdays

Dorothy Drury 2nd	George Pinson 18th
AJ Garrett 8th	Stacey Stevens 19th
Kathryn Perry 14th	Kevin Woodson 23rd
Jacqueline Diachun 15th	Brenton Yadon 27th
Hannah Ingle 18th	Vicki Vaughn 29th



**CONTINUED PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MEMBERS OF WCC**

Michael Wells, Jacqueline "Jackie" Diachun, Dillard Griffin, Angela Biggs

**CONTINUED PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FRIENDS OF WCC**

Susan and Pete Shaw, Carolyn Breit, Terry and Corey Kozina, Thomasa Leemed, Mark Barfield, Pete Lykins, Deborah Martinez, Ken Dove, Les Mullins, Dotty Hamilton, Sondra, Jackie Rader, Virgil Gill, Gary & Carol Hicks

**For our world and the impacts of COVID-19**

**For all affected by Hurricane Ian**

**REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND**

Anna Lee Hopkins, Stacey Kaufmann, Evelyn Ladd, and Hattie Reeves