



the VISITOR

January 3, 2020
Vol. 79, No. 110

OUR MISSION
**To know God and
follow Jesus Christ.**

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, JAN. 3

- Coffee Hour, 9:30am, Zoom
- Virtual Worship, YouTube
- Youth Groups TBA

MONDAY, JAN. 4

- Nominating Com. Mtg, 6:30pm, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, Noon, Zoom

SUNDAY, JAN 10

- Coffee Hour, 9:30am, Zoom
- Virtual Worship, YouTube
- Youth Groups TBA

TUESDAY, JAN. 12

- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30pm, Zoom

Happy Birthday!

- Jan. 3 Debbie Potthast
Jan. 4 Paige Freed, James Hoffman
Jan. 5 Lindsey Ingebritson,
Hilary Nichols
Jan. 8 Bryan Garton, Sam Pine



A congregation related to
The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
www.disciples.org

WORSHIP: TWO WAYS

AT-HOME ONLINE: Watch our recorded service on our YouTube channel at
"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"

AT-HOME LITURGY: Provided inside this Visitor for this Sunday.

• *The Light of Christ* •

2ND Sun. AFTER CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 3RD

LUKE 2:22-40

"SETTING THE COURSE"

REV. JIMMY SPEAR, PREACHING

A Socially-Distanced Christmas

In new ways the church family observed the season of Advent and Birth

We did it. Together we were able to observe the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas in the year of the coronavirus, social distance mandates, and just not being able to be gathered in all the ways we love. We would never imagine such a thing nor that we could be high tech enough to keep going. With the help of YouTube, The Visitor, and careful planning, all the worship opportunities were broadcast and liturgies were printed. The good word of God coming among us could not and would not be stopped. It just came to us differently.

Pictured below are the scenes from the 87th annual Christmas Pageant. It was not held in



2019 due to the weather. This year, as it returned, we just made it a mask-wearing, socially-distanced, care given to all type of event — recorded in a new style, but with all the elements of our 87-year pageant history.

— continued, page 2



Cookie Boxes: Success!

With your help, we were able to fund drapes for the Yonker Fellowship Hall! And, now with the success of our Cookie Boxes, we are saving to work on other projects needed. The amount raised by the purchase of Cookie Boxes, as well as donations given, was \$1,165.

Hopefully next year, we will be able to have the Christmas Bazaar with many more goodies. But, until then, thanks and be safe!

Blessings, *Disciples Women's Ministries (CWF)*

Socially-Distanced Christmas, cont.

The pageant wasn't the only altered method of sharing the message of Advent and Christmas. Student Ministry groups continued to



meet via Zoom and, by the end of the season, the Chi-Rho group was so in sync they even all showed up in the same Santa hat! The dedicated 5-some that made it to Dec. 22 is pictured below. The CYF was able to continue its tradition of shopping for the VAC holiday gifts with the addition of masks and the

distance of a cart between everyone at all times. The DOC group was busy with finals and its tradition of eating breakfast together at Ernie's was changed to the BIG Yonker Hall — two at a table gave a great chance to catch up and have a study break. Jimmy Spear served up pancakes, sausage, waffles and eggs to order.

Fellowship was a bit trickier — so the Zoom machine was started up and gathered people on Sunday mornings for coffee hour and continued our Wednesday morning fellowship Zooms. We shared holiday stories, sweaters, meaningful devotions and even a rousing version of "The 12 Days of Christmas" — perhaps the only song with actual Zoom-ability.

We continued to reach out in fellowship with as much carol singing to as many people as possible. The Membership Department

arranged for the 18 singing volunteers to be broken in small groups to

carol to 40 individuals who are more home-centered in the winter months of the pandemic. With 29 homes to travel to over the course of three days, the four groups had the best time seeing face to across the yard face many of our church friends. The shared songs, miles driven, bells rung, and good tidings were just what this social distance Christmas needed. Pictured above and right are the three Sunday groups and DOC Friday singing group in yards,

porches, and front patios. Thanks to the following singers for taking on this project: **Tracy Evers, Elizabeth Mottaz, the Rogers (Kim, Hartley, Ella), the Johnsons (Vicki, Olivia, Alex),**

News of the People

Prayers

Marge Carter sustained a fall and a leg fracture last week and had surgery to repair. She is now back at Lenoir Woods for PT. **Janelle Patterson** is now home after rehabilitation from a stroke and continues to improve. **Glenda Clark** continues to rehabilitate following hip surgery.

Congratulations, Graduate

Jack Creasy graduated in December from the University of Missouri School of Visual Studies with a BFA in Graphic Design and a minor in Art History. Jack is the son of Jay and Chris Creasy.

Gratitude

We were so happy when the "Schaefer 5" came by our house and serenaded us. What a nice Christmas treat! We were so glad to see friends from church. We sang along with them. Hope they didn't mind. Hoping we can see everyone at church soon. Merry Christmas! -- **Pat & Sue Wright**

The entire church staff wishes to thank the congregation for the Christmas bonus. The care of the members of First Christian for their church staff has been and continues to be abundant in these times. With appreciation, **Brad, Jimmy, Fred, Laura, Michael, Travis, Rochelle, Cheryl, and Kim.**



the Schaefers (Stacia, Kurt, Wolf, Lena), and Jimmy

Spear. The DOC group pictured above with **Bonnie Backues** and her friend included **Allie Pigg, Hunter Rogers, Kim Potthast, Chloe Prewitt, and Maddie Marrero.**

Home Worship for January 3 *In the season of Christmastide, we offer this at-home worship*

experience. (Different from the YouTube version.) Find a place — space to sit. Pick a view, be comfortable. Light a candle nearby. Gather a Bible, maybe a hymnal. Get your tablet/internet device/tape player/CD and prime a hymn or carol of the season for listening. Get communion—grape juice, wine, any beverage and cracker will do! Be in the spirit of the Holy!

WORD & PRAISE

OPENING WORDS & PRAYER.

From the stillness of the blessed night of Jesus' birth
We come before God in praise and thanksgiving.
From the astounding news sung to the shepherds
We thank God for the gift of a Son.

Our hearts keep the message of Christmas always.

Our spirits rejoice in God's presence with us.

Our hearts be filled again with God's love.

Our spirits resound with the good news of salvation.

May God's peace be upon us that we may be bearers
of God's Good News. *God, is indeed with us!*

O God, of Promise and mysterious Light, be with us
this day as we journey in our faith; to meet your Gift.
Give us courage and hope along our way, as your
light will continue to glow brightly in our path, lead-
ing us to service and discipleship in Jesus' Name.
Keep us faithful in this new year upon us. Amen.

LIGHT.

Continue to light the Christ candle in these days as a
reminder of the light now fully come. Speak the
words, "Glory, glory, glory to God on high and peace
to us here for the new year to come."

READ SCRIPTURE. Luke 2:22-40

Go Tell it On the Mountain

Refrain:

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens,
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

*The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth: [Refrain]*

*Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]*

By John W. Work Jr. (1907) Chalice Hymnal #167

Tune: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

MEDITATION. *When the time came.*

"When the time came..." What a familiar phrase as we have just heard the Christmas birth narrative of Mary and her child Jesus. "When the time came for her to birth her child..." prompted us to be present near the stable to see firsthand the birth of the Messiah. "When the time came" sure seemed to be timing as it should be. Today's text speaks from the next "when the time came" in the life of Jesus. The blessing and dedication of his very life in the holy place to live in the light and blessing of God. His parents faithfully bring their young son to the place where, despite his rather sensational birth, he will be dedicated in the same way as all other children. The exception is found in the voices that speak in the temple about the child Jesus. The two voices speak as if they know God intimately and have been living in the knowledge of God's future works of salvation. The elders Simeon and Anna are perhaps more relatable to us if we ever grew up in a church or have observed the nature of church people. It is often the older church members who speak with the wisdom of years, strength of lifelong prayers, and the countenance of no longer being afraid. If we were, in our mind's eye, to look around the sanctuary, we might catch a glimpse of our own Simeon and Anna. Perhaps they are reading this today.

The elders, wise and astute in faith, are the ones who are able to reflect on their hopes for the world and faith. They are able to see into the future with different eyes and interests. There is no card in the game for them except the well-being of others or the community. How blessed we often are when our elders will speak about what is to come and how we are to be a part of that vision.

Mary and Joseph were surely not completely surprised by the words of Simeon and Anna. They were however mindful of the power of God found in the words about their child. We read those words today and are also in awe of what we might see in our own age that is good news for our time with the arrival of Jesus. (-js)

PRAYER & GREAT THANKSGIVING

BE IN PRAYER. Offer prayer to God in thanks, in confession. Express your needs, share the needs of others. Just say what is in your heart. Amen!

GIVE AN OFFERING. What is it that you can give today? To God, to another, to yourself. Either pause worship and go do it, or make the commitment of giving that will happen today!

COMMUNION. (Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer)

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." Speak and partake of the elements. Then pray, *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

BENEDICTION. Go, confident in the news of peace and hope, of healing and love. Go and may the God of peace always go with you. Amen.



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First Christian Church

*Our Mission: To know God
And follow Jesus Christ.*

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Sunday Coffee Hour *Zoom or Phone at 9:30am*

The group continues to grow as a new fellowship opportunity called *virtual coffee hour* takes to the airwaves on Sunday mornings. Bring your coffee, get your toast ready, and jump online to visit with other folks. **Continues Jan. 3 and 10.**



Join Zoom Meetings: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87436739020> Zoom ID: **874 3673 9020**
Dial by phone 312.626.6799 and enter meeting ID: 874 3673 9020

The numbers for all of it are above. So, if you can, watch worship on YouTube before or after coffee hour – just like we used to do so long ago. See you Sunday at 9:30am.

YOUTH GROUPS

As COVID conditions change our plans, parents will continue to get an email prior to any youth gatherings. The CYF will receive news and plans via its GroupMe text.

DOC COLLEGE GROUP

The DOC winter break mission trip will be a hybrid event and experienced locally January 7-9. Regular gatherings will "re-Zoom" on January 19, 7:30pm, following the school term winter break.

Advent at Home: Complete

It was inspiring this Advent season seeing the variety of ways members and friends established a place and time for worship. The Advent wreaths in homes, the candles for Christmas Eve, the kids' crafts and projects. Thanks to all who contributed and went the extra step this year. Our last Advent wreath pictured here, by Donna and Will Houston, features the completion of the season, four weeks of purple and the white Christ candle finally lit and shining bright.

