



September 11, 2020
Vol. 77, No. 97

THE

VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

YOUTH GROUP!

Sunday Sep. 13: Chi-Rho & CYF

4:00-5:00pm— JYF & Chi-Rho alternating weeks

JYF (grades 3,4,5)

Sep. 20, Oct. 4, 18, (Nov. 8, 25)

CHI-RHO (grades 6,7,8)

Sep. 13, 27, Oct. 11, 18, (Nov. 1, 15)

5:00-6:00pm —CYF (grades 9-12) every week

Location: local parks/pavilions/member's outdoor spaces

THIS WEEK: COSMO PARK — look for the CHURCH BUS near the BURFORD Shelter (to the left)

Weekly Fellowship and Bible Study



Have you joined yet?

Online gatherings continue for study and fellowship each week via Zoom video conferencing or by calling in via phone. If you would like to join any of the gatherings, please call or email the church office to be connected. Join us!

FELLOWSHIP & LEARNING:

Mid-week Connect with Rev. Spear

(devotion, fellowship): *Wednesdays at 10:30am*

Bible Study with Dr. Stagg: *Wednesdays at Noon*

Don't miss people anymore, talk to Rev. Spear about joining!

Worship: 2 Ways

Sunday, September 13

**return to at-home ONLY*

Matthew 18:21-35

"Forgive"

Message by Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg



WORSHIP WITH US IN TWO WAYS:

AT HOME, ONLINE: On our YouTube Channel

"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"

OR

AT HOME LITURGY: provided on page 2.

AT CHURCH: PAUSED

Worship in the Sanctuary is suspended for Sep. 13 & 20 due to current community health conditions. (see back page for info.)

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS



- Sep. 13 — Colleen Nilges
- Sep. 14 — Pricilla Henry, **Bettie Koelling (93!)**,
- Sep. 15 — Cynthia Smith
- Sep. 16 — Donaleigh Richardson
- Sep. 17 — Christina DeVenney, Bryan Hickey, Madeline Marrero
- Sep. 19 — Brad Stagg

On-Site Worship Paused

FCC's response to rise in local COVID cases

The church leadership has continued to monitor current community health conditions related to COVID-19. The church leadership weekly decides two weeks ahead of a Sunday whether on-site worship will be held.

On-site worship Sundays, Sep. 13 and 20 will be suspended.

Worship will be recorded and available early Sunday on the church's YouTube channel. See more info. on the back page.



On the Sundays we are not together, 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-worship song for listening.

Get communion—any beverage and cracker will do! Be in the spirit of the Holy!

HOME WORSHIP for SEPTEMBER 13

WORD and PRAISE

WELCOME GOD IN PRAYER.

In this moment, gracious God,
you have called us away from the world
to a place and a time where we can commune with you.
Hallow this communion, we pray.
Calm our anxious spirits,
that we may be set apart to hear your word of truth
through which we receive grace
to bring about the obedience of faith.
Open us to the reality of your all-embracing love,
both in this place and in the wider world.
May we, by our words and actions,
be bearers of your kingdom,
in the name and Spirit of the Christ. Amen.

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ we bring: Alleluia! Amen!

Let us all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;

Praise we with grateful choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!

Let us praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!

Christ is our Guide and Friend on whom we can depend;

His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,

singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

By Christian Henry Bateman, 1843

Tune: MADRID (Tradit'l Spanish Melody) Chalice Hymnal # 90

READ SCRIPTURE. Romans 14:1-12

MEDITATION.

Does the phrase found in Romans 12, verse 8 ring a bell? *"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."* It is attached to a good lesson about being accountable to God and living less in judgement of our neighbor.

Paul seems to remind us to worry less about all the lists and

opinions that can cause a quarrel with our neighbor and spend more time on our own path of discipleship. Perhaps even be a good role model? He reminds us we better be thinking about what God thinks.

For the first century disciples, it might have been about food practices, who one's servant prayed to, or one's preference on the day set aside for rest and worship. These days, it could be about the presidency, guns, skin color, wealth, and, of course, the coronavirus.

Paul's reminder to live and die to the Lord implies ALL the stuff in-between is of the Lord, too. What do we think about that? Are we willing to commit it all to God? Have we spent enough time aligning our opinions and positions with those of God? Is there something that we spend more time judging another on than we do in knowledge of our true self?

The spiritual questions related to accountability and our belief system are hard. They always have been and seem to always will be. But, perhaps it is in the answer that we find relief today: *Give praise to God and, in so doing, we will be accountable to God.* Wow. It can be as easy as our praise and prayer. May it be so. Amen. (-js)

PRAYER and 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. Peace be with you! Speak the truth of God. Live with new life. Be filled with the Holy Spirit! Amen.



News of the People...

Prayers...

Debbie Potthast's sister-in law, **Julie Anderson** is recovering from spinal surgery on Monday, Aug. 31, following a major auto-accident last weekend. **Natalie Barnard's mother, Mary Bowyer** had heart stent surgery Saturday, Sep. 5, and is doing well. **Billie Silvey** had surgery on Sep. 8. **Nannie Lou Mallett** began 15 days of radiation treatments for skin cancer on her leg.

Sympathy...

Prayers of sympathy are extended to **Kurt, Stacia, Max, Wolf,** and **Lena Schaefer** in the death of Kurt's mother Catherine Schaefer on August 31, at the age of 89. She lived in St. Louis. Services were held on Sep. 5.



Notes of THANKS

Thanks for the cards sent during and after my surgery. My new prosthetic heart valve and pacemaker seem to be working "as advertised" and the blood pressure fluctuations are starting to settle down. It is great to be part of the First Christian family and you are appreciated.

-- **Tommy Tomlin**

Dear FCC family,

I am honored to be a recipient of the Marvin and Marcelene Shamberger Educational Scholarship this year. I am very grateful for the opportunity to use this to further my education. I'm so thankful for all of the love and support I receive from the church during my time in college.

Thank you all, **Coleman Rogers**

Opportunities for Outreach This Fall

As the weather is becoming cooler and school is starting up, we know that fall is right around the corner! The Mission Outreach ministry has a variety of opportunities to serve our community during the next few months. Please check out these opportunities and mark your calendars!



In September, there are two outreach opportunities:

- We are putting together 10 Missouri **Backpacks of Love for the Festival of Sharing**. For this project, we are collecting monetary donations or items (small backpack, child toothbrush, child toothpaste, child's medium or large t-shirt, small stuffed animal, child narrow comb, package of 3 underpants, and a pair of socks) to fill these backpacks. **WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20.**
- The **Columbia CROP Walk has gone virtual this year!** If you are already taking a daily walk – wouldn't it be great to be able to raise some money as you do that? You can now walk for something just like Tom Moore! You can register at www.crophungerwalk.com/columbiamo to be a walker and ask friends to sponsor you, or you can give a monetary donation to this cause. The CROP Walk's goal is to end hunger one step at time – will you help this cause?

In October, there are four ways to help our community:

- **EVERY SATURDAY MORNING IN OCTOBER**, FCC will be hosting **Breakfast for Our Brethren**. This mission provides breakfast to people in need in our community.
- We will also be **collecting warm items** (coats, blankets, scarves, gloves, etc.) in a donation drive. Due to the pandemic, VAC is not sponsoring Warm Up Columbia, but we feel it is still important to do our part in collecting warm items for people in need. You can place these items in the bins outside the church office or contact the office and Debbie Potthast will be more than willing to do a porch pickup. We will make sure these items are given to agencies that will get our Warm Up donations to people in need.
- **OCTOBER 26**, Team Cuisine will be serving at **Loaves and Fishes**. We would love your help by either helping to prep beforehand, cooking, serving the meal or assisting in the cleanup.
- **OCTOBER 31**, we are going to be serving at **Habitat for Humanity** again! There will be two shifts a morning shift (8:30-12:00), an afternoon shift (1:00-4:00), or you are more than welcome to work both shifts. Habitat for Humanity has put into place COVID-safe practices. Mark your calendar -more information will be coming out soon!!

With all these opportunities for outreach, what will you do this fall to make a difference in our community? Contact Elizabeth Mottaz or the church office if you would like to be involved in any of these ministries.

--Mission Outreach Dept.



The Visitor
First Christian Church
 101 N. 10th Street
 Columbia, MO 65201
 573-449-7265
 fcc@firstchristian.org

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Columbia, MO
 Permit No. 75

Ministerial Staff:

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
 brad@firstchristian.org

Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
 jimmy@firstchristian.org

Music Staff:

Michael Sauer, Director of Music Ministry, Chancel Choir, Bells
 michael@firstchristian.org

Travis McFarlane, Early Worship Service Musician
 Dr. Rochelle Parker, Organist

Mother's Day Out Pre-School:

Tracy Westhoff, Director
 tracy@firstchristian.org

Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry:

Rev. Sally Robinson, Chaplain
 sallyarobinson16@gmail.com

Support Staff:

Laura Shirey, Office Manager
 laura@firstchristian.org

Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
 fred@firstchristian.org

Return Service Requested

News About Our YouTube Broadcast

We have created a NEW YouTube Channel; the new name is: "First Christian Church – Columbia, Missouri." Since we are in process of revamping our website (including the addition of a church app!), we realized the need to create a YouTube Channel not connected to my personal Gmail account, which is what we did in the hurry to create a YouTube account last March. Previous YouTube Services will remain on the old channel (First Christian Church – Columbia, MO) for a short while and will eventually be transferred to the new channel. In the meantime, all worship services going forward will be found on the new channel: First Christian Church – Columbia, Missouri. (The only difference: "MO" is now "Missouri").

Mid-America Workshop on Open and Affirming Ministry

Regional Church offers insight to Process

As a part of the weeks leading to the The Christian Church in Mid-America Regional Assembly, a series of workshops is offered on Thursday to clergy and church leaders that would have been at the in-person assembly. One workshop has a connection to FCC, Columbia. The Disciples Alliance Q connects Disciples congregations around the USA to resources related to exploring what it means to become an Open and Affirming congregation. FCC Columbia has entered that process and its Open and Affirming Exploration Committee invites the church to join them in connecting to a special workshop presentation on the topic of what it is to be Open on **Sept 24, at 7:00pm via ZOOM**. A second workshop on Affirming will be held in November.



- Join FCC members on the Open and Affirming Exploration Committee in viewing
- this zoom and participate in the discussion. If you would like to join the Sep. 24,
- 7:00pm Zoom, email the church office (fcc@firstchristian.org). It will include a
- video presentation by folks from Disciples congregations in Missouri and then a
- discussion. If you have questions please direct them to Committee chairperson
- Kim Leon or Associate Minister Jimmy Spear.