



the VISITOR

February 12, 2021
Vol. 79, No. 116

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, FEB. 14

- On-Site Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Coffee Hour, 11:00am, Zoom
- CYF Movie, 5-7pm, Cinema

MONDAY, FEB. 15

- Deadline for Lent Devotional Orders

TUESDAY, FEB. 16

- D@C College Group, 7:30pm, YFH

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, Noon, Zoom
- Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:30pm

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

- O&A Video Convo., 7:00pm, Zoom

Happy Birthday!

- Feb. 14 Russell Chandler
Feb. 15 Royce Palmer, Sally Robinson,
Suelten Wells
Feb. 16 Bonnie Backues (97!)
Feb. 17 Patti Freeman, Brian McCarty,
Jenny McCarty, Kim Potthast,
Dan Tevis
Feb. 18 Mark Mills
Feb. 19 Sue Fink, Audrey Koch,
Cullen Rose
Feb. 20 Heather Mottaz



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

WORSHIP: 3 WAYS

AT-HOME ONLINE: Watch the recording of the live service—available late on Sunday via the email/YouTube channel.

"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"

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

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH:

On-site, in-person worship resumes this Sunday, February 14

- 9:30am in the Sanctuary
- Masks will be required at all times. Sanitizer and masks are available.
- If possible, enter and exit through the bell tower's narthex door. The elevator is available if needed from Yonker Fellowship Hall entrances.
- Seating is throughout the sanctuary in keeping with social-distancing – six feet apart in a pew, alternating middle and sides of pews.
- For those 65+: please use caution and consult your healthcare providers before deciding if you can/should attend.
- Nursery care is currently not offered at this time.
- Registering: **RSVP** now for the coming Sunday. Call or email the church office 449.4265, fcc@firstchristian.org
- You will be asked to check-in upon arrival, confirming your RSVP or register at that moment (for contact tracing purposes, if needed)
- By registering, you confirm that all attendees:
 - are fever-free
 - are not experiencing COVID symptoms (fever, shortness of breath, new loss of taste/smell, etc.)
 - have not been asked by health authorities to quarantine in the last 14 days
 - are not positive for COVID or awaiting results of a COVID test.
- A bulletin with words & hymns provided.
- Individual communion will be provided.



6th Sun. After Epiphany

February 14

Up a High Mountain

Mark 9:2-9

Hymn: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching

A service of
repentance and ash

FEBRUARY 17

6:30PM

In-person with masks and social distance in the sanctuary, in this Visitor on page 2 for home use, and on YouTube posted after Wednesday evening.



Ash
WEDNESDAY

News of the People

Prayers

Charlie and Betty Koelling are on the mend from a recent bout of COVID-19. Charlie continues to recuperate at Lenoir’s REACH after a hospital stay. Glenda Clark continues to recuperate at Columbia Post-Acute from recent hip surgery. Millie Bolman after suffering a fall. Jerry Daugherty has been ill with COVID-19.

Millie Bolman, below, turned 102 and was celebrated in a grand style at Lenoir Woods, Feb 2.



Open & Affirming Video Watch + Zoom

A conversation on welcome—watch video and join Feb. 18 Zoom discussion

The Open and Affirming Exploration Team invites members and friends to take advantage of continued “home” centeredness by watching a PBS video/documentary on the theme of “churches welcoming LGBTQ+ individuals.” A Zoom-based conversation will gather viewers questions and observations in a one-hour session. The video: “To the Contrary: The Welcoming Movement,” tells the story of three congregations (very similar to FCC, Columbia) and their journey to officially become “congregations of welcome” to all people including the LGBTQ+ population. Watch the video link below and then join the Zoom on Thursday, February 18, 7:00pm.

Use this link to view the video <https://www.pbs.org/to-the-contrary/watch/2039>

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83924785493>

On Zoom, meeting ID: 839 2478 5493

Home Liturgy for Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17)

(Gather a candle, bible, and anything ashy – candle wick or fireplace etc.)

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINES: Beloved in Christ, at the time of the Christian Passover, we celebrate our deliverance from sin and death through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is the season of preparation for this great celebration, the means by which we renew our life in the mystery of the passion. We begin Lent by acknowledging our need for repentance, naming those things which damage us and others, and we open ourselves to the One whose love knows no boundaries and whose mercy is demonstrated to us in the life of Jesus Christ. We take an honest look at our lives, and acknowledging our humanness; we pray quietly, but with full hearts; we fast from the excess, cleanse and find creative space for God; we let go of those things that harm us and take on works of love for others; we read and feast on God’s Word, we observe a holy Lent, and prepare ourselves for the passion of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. Be in worship now, beginning with these words:

As Lent begins, we are summoned by a gracious and merciful God.

We gather for self-examination coming in awe before the One Who Creates.

We approach God in reverence and wonder, invitation into holy places.

Walk humbly before God in secret disciplines, in prayer, fasting and giving.

We seek the One who grants us life, upholding us with a willing spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY & THE LORD’S PRAYER: Lord, we come not sure if we are ready or if it would just be easier to stay where we have been...but our spirits yearn for more...and your Spirit calls to us with more. In the days ahead, help us to take the risk of looking within and looking beyond ourselves to the joy that awaits us. Give us hearts of courage and strength for the tasks which lie ahead. Be with each one of us as we move from the winter of discouragement to the spring of hope. Cleanse our spirits and make us truly ready to be your disciples. Yearning for time in the Spirit, we pray in Jesus’ Name the prayer he taught disciples. Our Father who art in heaven....

CALL TO RECONCILIATION & CONFESSION: God longs for us to turn from those words, acts, obstacles which keep us from being God’s people. Be invited, in silence and words, to bring brokenness to God who desires to make us whole.

Holy God, we confess our sins to you. Too long we have traveled our own ways, too long have we sought to satisfy our hidden desires. We have trusted the falsehoods of the world, and relied on the power which would consume our souls. We have sought healing from impostors, and rejected the One who was broken for our wholeness. Have mercy on us, God whose love overflows our deepest hopes. Let our hearts be a sanctuary for your Spirit; our lives abound in service to others; our spirits reflect the One we call our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

READ PSALM 51:1-17 Meditate on the words, over their inclusion in your life.

ASHES: Our ancestors in the faith used ashes as a sign of our repentance, a symbol of the uncertainty and fragility of human life. Like them, we have tasted the ashes of hopelessness; we have walked through the ashes of our loss and pain; we have stood knee-deep in the ashes of our brokenness. Be invited back to earth -- to wonder at the gift of life. Using your fingers make the sign of the cross on your forehead with ash or symbolically. Pray: God of our lives, out of the dust of creation you have formed us and given us life. May these ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death, but reminders that by your gift of grace in Jesus Christ, we are granted life forever with you. Amen.



A DECLARATION OF GOD’S MERCY: God so loved this world and this people that God sent Christ to suffer and die for all. That gift of love is now yours. Know that you are forgiven, reconciled, accepted, and loved.

Home Worship for February 14

In the season of home centeredness, 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

WELCOME GOD IN PRAYER.

Mighty one of yesterday, today, and tomorrow,
do not be silent, but speak, that we may hear.

Speak justice, that we may correct our lawlessness.

Speak righteousness, that we may know your ways.

Speak compassion, that we may know your mercy.

Speak abundance, that we may serve others.

Speak understanding, that we may be peacemakers.

Speak glory, that we may know your Son.

Speak, and we will listen to you.

You promise forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace
when we speak our shortcomings.

We speak of mistakes made & abandoning your ways.

We speak of failures to show compassion and mercy.

Mighty one of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, hear our
prayers and speak to us a blessing that we would be lead
us into fullness of life. Amen.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
bear me through the swelling current;
land me safe on Canaan's side.
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.*

By William Williams, 1745

Tune: CWM RHONDDA Chalice Hymnal # 622

LIGHT. Continue to light the Christ candle these days as a reminder of the light now fully coming into our new year.

READ SCRIPTURE. 2 Kings 2:1-12

MEDITATION. *A great story of Elijah and Elisha.*

First of all, it is hard to just land in the middle of an Old Testament story. The narrative of prophets Elijah and Elisha is mysterious, fascinating, and sometimes confusing. In these cold winter weeks when time inside is the norm, look up the whole of their story. 1 Kings: 17 begins the Elijah story and goes into 2 Kings: 2 where we find he is succeeded by Elisha. They bring the word of the Lord to kings, lands, and the people. Today's text is the account of them walking together and Elisha observing Elijah taken up by chariots of fire to heaven. What a story!

Today's text notes the dedication of Elisha to his elder/mentor. He will not leave the side of Elijah as his time draws near. It seems to be a witness of the power of presence and the strength of relationship between two who are so similarly set as leaders, prophets, and wise ones.

Who has been your elder/mentor? Who's mantle were you long ago invited to carry on? Is there an element of presence and strength in your carrying on the memory or work of others now gone?

The faith journey is one filled with mentors and guides. Nary a person of age and wisdom in the church pew has gone it alone. Guided and nurtured by someone in some place for some period of time is usually our story of faith journey.

In these days, recall those names and faces, the teaching and strength of those who have gone before us. Perhaps we are better for having been there to watch in awe and wonder when the chariots came... Amen. (-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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101 N. 10th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
573-449-7265
email: fcc@firstchristian.org
web: firstchristian.org

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First Christian Church

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

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
brad@firstchristian.org
Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
jimmy@firstchristian.org

Music Staff

Michael Sauer, Director
Dr. Rochelle Parker, Organist
Travis McFarlane, Musician

Mother's Day Out Pre-School

Tracy Westhoff, Director
tracy@firstchristian.org

Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry

Rev. Sally Robinson, Director
Dr. Kim Leon, Assistant Director

Support Staff

Laura Hunsaker, Office Manager
laura@firstchristian.org
Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
fred@firstchristian.org

Sunday Coffee Hour

NEW TIME: SUNDAY at 11:00am
Zoom or Phone

Join the growing group gathering on Sunday for *virtual coffee hour*. Bring your coffee, get your toast ready, and jump online to visit with other folks.

*This new 11am time allows for 9:30 in-person worship.

Join the Zoom:
<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 11:00am.



DOC COLLEGE GROUP

Regular gatherings continue on Tuesday nights with social distance and masks in Yonker Fellowship Hall at 7:30pm.

YOUTH GROUPS

Sundays -- one hour.

Fellowship Hall.

Masks.

Distance.

Temps Taken.

Alternating weeks to let the air space settle.



JYF (grades 3, 4, 5):

Sunday, Feb. 28: 12:00-1:15pm and will include pizza lunch.

Chi-Rho & CYF meet in-person 2X a month @ 5:00pm:

Feb 14: CYF (MOVIE in Cinema) 5-7pm

Feb 21: Chi-Rho (MOVIE in Cinema) 5-7pm

Feb 28: CYF

Mar 7: Chi-Rho

Mar 14: CYF

Mar 21: Chi-Rho

Parents will need to keep track of this JYF & Chi-Rho schedule. CYF and Chi-Rho will get GroupMe notifications.