



the VISITOR

March 12, 2021
Vol. 79, No. 119

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

Happening Soon

SATURDAY, MAR. 13

- Baptism Class, 9:00am-4:00pm, YFH

SUNDAY, MAR. 14

- Easter Egg Drop Off Day
- On-Site Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Coffee Hour, 11:00am, Zoom
- Baptism Class, 12-3pm, YFH
- Bingo Event, 4:00pm, YFH
- CYF, 6:30pm, YFH

TUESDAY, MAR. 16

- DOC College Group, 7:30pm, YFH
- Admin. Board Mtg, 6:30pm, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 17

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

Happy Birthday!

- Mar. 14 Donna Houston
Mar. 16 Jordan Barnes
Mar. 18 Kathy Richardson



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

Letting Love Flow

Week of Compassion
Donations for the week
celebrated in February
totaled \$2,000

Donations for specific
disasters throughout
the year are always
welcomed to the church
office noting
“WOC—location”
or online at
weekofcompassion.org



RECLAIMING GOD'S COVENANTS



Worship for Sunday
March 14

“The Salvation Promise”

John 3:14-21

Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching

Hymn of the day:
Blessed Assurance

WORSHIP: 3 WAYS

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

“*First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)*”

AT-HOME LITURGY: Provided on page 3.

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH, 9:30am:

On-site, in-person worship has resumed at 9:30am in
the Sanctuary. Masks and social distance are
required. More information can be found on our
website. An **RSVP** is needed for all attending.

Call/email the church office or visit
firstchristian.org/worship-rsvp.

Church Landscaping Work Day

Volunteers Needed, March 27th

This past week’s great spring-like weather with Easter Sunday soon to follow, serves as reminders that it is time to give the Church’s exterior grounds their annual Spring Makeover! On Saturday, **March 27th volunteers are needed from 9am until noon** (or any portion thereof) to clean up, spruce up and shape up our ever improving landscaping! Thanks to our Adopt A Spot volunteers, this annual event becomes easier each year! Fred Mottaz has volunteered his truck to haul mulch and **workers are asked to bring masks, gardening tools, gloves, hats, sunscreen and drinking water**. At least 3 wheelbarrows will also be needed. **If you can join us on the 27th, please email or call/text, Mike Randerson ASAP at dmanderson@mchsi.com or 573-424-4858**. Our weather makeup day will be April 3, 9am to noon. Hope to see you there!

BINGO!

March 14, 4:00 pm
Yonker Hall

The Fellowship Department will be hosting monthly gatherings—masked/social distanced—starting in March. The first is BINGO, trivia in April and BINGO again in May.

SPACE UPDATE: We can now hold 100 in Yonker Hall — but we still need an RSVP to prepare the space for all to attend. **RSVP** now to the church office by phone/email or online, firstchristian.org/event-rsvp. We hope you can join us!



Bit From Brad

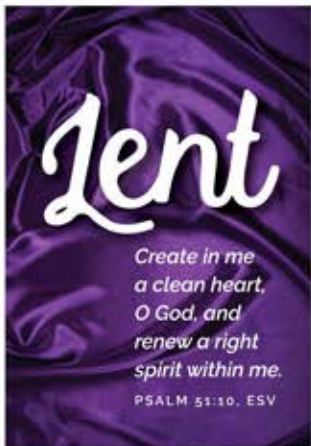
Lent 2021:

How are your 2021 Lenten practices coming along? Full speed ahead; barely moving along; or just plain sputtered at the starting line? It's understandable. After all it's been a weird kind

of year! It's hard to believe that this time last year the pandemic had hit Europe and America's Coasts and would soon strike the Heartland of Mid-America. Interruptions disrupt our equilibrium. As creatures of habit and rhythm when something disrupts our rhythm, we're left feeling out of sorts. But then, we adapt to new rhythms.

Thankfully, God graciously provides us with resilient spirits, adaptable souls, and repentant hearts! Change provides opportunity. And the greater the change, the greater the opportunity! Whoa! Then God must have a whole bunch of opportunities in store for humanity. How is your faith in the midst of this global pandemic recovery? Mine has grown. I hope yours has, too!

Whether just surviving or full-blown thriving, one of the best ways to strengthen our relationship with God is to reclaim the



promises God made and keeps with us. That's why for Lent we're studying the God's Covenants from the Old and New Testaments. Reclaiming those sacred promises allow us to reestablish healthier rhythms nearer to God's heart. Lent allows us to drop the old patterns only to take up new, healthier practices. Or, as is so often the case, it allows us to take up old patterns but with new attitudes, renewed vitality, and deeper commitment.

As we begin the slow, yet steady return to onsite worship, let us return to church with renewed spirits rooted in the Covenants of God's love, justice and generosity.

See you in Church! When you're ready, we're ready!

Texas Family:

Some of our church members kindly requested that I share how my family fared during the Arctic Vortex that froze so much of Texas' coastal plains and Hill Country. Thanks for asking! The good news is they all made it through just fine. My mom & dad had electricity the entire time. Trish's dad lost power for 2-3 days. Our siblings all lost power ranging from 2-5 days. The worst hit was my aunt & uncle in Hill Country near Kerrville who lost power for 7-8 days and had to sleep in their cars for 2-3 nights as their 4x4 vehicles could not make it up the steep road that their

home sits on. But they made it through, too. Thankfully, all's

2 well that ends well!

Blessings, *Dr. Brad*



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 28

2:00 pm

Pre-K to 5th grade

More information next week.

Help Fill Easter Eggs

An Egg Hunt is being planned for late March.

Church friends are invited to drop off items to be put in the colored eggs by **SUNDAY, MARCH 14**. Coins, little stickers and non-chocolate candy are welcomed. We will do the stuffing this year. Drop off in Narthex on Sunday or the church office this Sunday.

News of the People & Place

Healing...

Prayers this week for **Genie Rogers** who will undergo a shoulder replacement; **Trish Stagg's** sister **Christine Gonzales** who was in the hospital recently.

Don't Forget...

This weekend we set our clocks up one hour on Saturday night.

Baptism & Discipleship...

The annual baptism and discipleship class was postponed last year due to the pandemic. Our now 7th graders will join with this year's 6th graders taking time in study, conversation and exploration of faith in the coming weeks of March. This is in preparation for the sacrament of Baptism in later spring. Rev. Spear leads the class.

Save your roll tubes...

After church members gave enough to last us years, the children's craft room is now depleted of tubes from paper towel and toilet tissue rolls. If you would collect them in the coming months, we will re-supply our craft room for the return of the children later this year. You can drop them off on the stage in Yonker Hall. We also will take stickers and cardboard egg cartons. Thanks!

Scholarship Applications

The applications for FCC Scholarships are now available for those members who are in undergraduate programs of higher education to apply. The application and information can be accessed from the church office or Jimmy Spear via email. Those who were awarded scholarships in the past are encouraged to apply.

The Deadline for applications is **Monday, April 5, 2021**.

Home Worship for March 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.

God loves us with a steadfast love.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

God loves us so much he gave us his Son.

Let us believe and have eternal life!

God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.

Let us have faith to receive this grace!

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

The Old Rugged Cross

*On a hill far away
stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross
where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

[Refrain:]

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

*O that old rugged cross,
so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God
left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]*

*In that old rugged cross,
stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me. [Refrain]*

*To that old rugged cross
I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day
to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share. [Refrain]*

By George Bennard (1913)

Tune: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS Chalice Hymnal # 548

PRAYER. Great Triune God, we have gathered here in your name as an act of faith, believing that you are not only among us, but that you love us. It is often hard to recognize your love, see your mercy and feel your presence. Help us today in our worship, that we might be transparent to your grace, as you reveal yourself to each one of us in word, quiet, song, and deed. Amen.

READ SCRIPTURE. Ephesians 2:1-10

MEDITATION. *Hidden in the LP*

We were dead through trespasses and sins. Debts, too. When we say the Lord's Prayer each Sunday in our tradition of worship we use the words "debts and debtors." Some worshipping communities use trespasses and still others say sins. "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

Weekly, we confess our sin right there in that familiar prayer. We don't always think about our sin causing our death, but it could. In the year of COVID, we have been more mindful of death just outside our door. What a horrible way to live. So too is a life of sin. Sin is death right outside our door. It always has been. If our sins mound up, compound, stack, pile or otherwise collect it is the death of us. Or at least the death of our spiritual self and the relationship we have with God. Have we dealt with that kind of death lately?

Today's text from Ephesians reminds us that despite our human condition of living among the sins and trespasses of this world, we are saved. We are saved by God in the offering of life with Christ. It is this thing called "grace" that saves us. It is the repentance and acceptance that saves us. It is our faith in Jesus' word and work among people like us that keeps us never far from the love of God. In this, we live and continue to pray. 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, and know the covenant of God proclaimed in Jesus Christ. Live in the good news of healing and love. Amen.



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First Christian Church

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

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Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
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Music Staff

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

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

Support Staff

Laura Hunsaker, Office Manager
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Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
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Sunday Coffee Hour

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 9:30am 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.
Letting the air space settle.

JYF (grades 3, 4, 5):

Sunday, Mar. 21: 12:00-1:15pm w/ pizza lunch.

Chi-Rho & CYF meet in-person 2X a month @ 5:00/6:30pm:

Mar. 14: CYF at 6:30pm

Mar. 21: Chi-Rho at 5:00pm

Mar. 28: Help with Egg Hunt Hiding (TBA)



Chi-Rho on their March 7 gathering. They loved the Hakuna Matata sign across from the church.