



THE
August 14, 2020
Vol. 77, No. 93

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) VISITOR

Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

Worship: 3 Ways

Sunday, August 16
at home or at church

Genesis 45: 1-15
"God's Doing"

Message by Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg



WORSHIP WITH US IN THREE WAYS:

AT HOME, ONLINE:

On our YouTube Channel

"First Christian Church (Columbia, MO)"

OR

AT HOME LITURGY:

provided on page 2.

OR

AT CHURCH:

Worship in the Sanctuary at **9:30am**
(RSVP via office phone or email)

Festival of Sharing 2020

Purchase Backpack Supplies—by Sept 20

First Christian Church, Columbia has supported the Festival of Sharing in many different ways over the years. Our youth have attended over nights to help repackage food. We have sent people to represent us at the different booths, such as Heifer International, and we have collected items for various hygiene and school kits over the years. This year, the Festival has been cancelled due to COVID-19. The needs are still there, perhaps even more so now.

The Outreach Ministry Department has decided to ask you to make a monetary donation to help us support the Festival of Sharing. You can purchase the items and bring them to the church on **Sunday, September 20, 2020 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

We have decided to do **10 Missouri Backpacks of Love**. These are for children ages 4-11 and includes the following items:



- 1 small backpack (no wheels on it),
- 1 child soft toothbrush,
- 1 tube child flavored toothpaste (4-6 oz),
- 1 t-shirt child medium or large,
- 1 small stuffed animal,
- 1 child narrow-tooth comb,
- 1 package with 3 pair underpants, and 1 pair of socks.

If you would like to make a donation, make the check to First Christian Church, put Festival of Sharing in the memo section and drop your check in the mail to 101 N. Tenth St. We will accept checks through September 20. If you would like to know more about the Festival, go to www.festivalofsharing.org. Thank you, from your Outreach Ministry Department.

www.firstchristian.org
Instagram: @firstchristian.como
www.facebook.com/FirstChristianColumbiaMO



101 N. 10th Street, Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 449-7265
E-mail: fcc@firstchristian.org

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 AUGUST 16

WORD and PRAISE

WELCOME GOD.

Rejoice in God always! **Again, I say, rejoice!**

For God gathers us together **from all the corners of the earth**

To be present now, **and know the joyful unity**

of being one with Christ.

Rejoice in God always! **Again, I say, REJOICE!**

PRAYER.

God of all children, you call us to be your church, to be one body in Jesus Christ. You bestow upon us the gifts we need for service. Grant that we may willingly take our part; that we may support one another and seek the greatest gift, which is love. Knead us together into one loaf with all your people throughout the world, through your Spirit of unity. Amen.

READ SCRIPTURE. Psalm 133 | Matthew 15:21-28

In Christ There Is No East or West

*In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one community of love throughout the whole wide
earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts ev'ry where their high commun-
ion find; his service is the golden cord close binding
humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west in him meet south
and north; all loving hearts are one in him throughout the
whole wide earth.*

By John Oxenham, 1908, alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1844
Chalice Hymnal # 687

MEDITATION.

Psalm 133 celebrates the goodness of when family, kindred spirits, people of all kinds live together in unity. Too often we notice the differences, not the similarities between us and others. Focusing on differences creates an “us vs. them” perspective, exclusive vs. inclusive. Truthfully, it is a journey that each of us must travel along the road of spiritual maturity. Even Jesus had to discover this truth for himself.

In our Matthew passage, Jesus encounters a Canaanite Woman in a Gentile region shouting for our Lord's mercy to heal her

daughter. Jesus callously dismisses her petition, stating he's only come to help Jews not Gentiles. When he denies her request, this mother will not relent, begging Jesus to help her. Jesus crudely states, “It is not fair to take the children's food and give it to the dogs.” She responds, “But even dogs eat the crumbs/scrap from their master's table.” In this moment, the fully-human Jesus transcends his cultural milieu, recognizing that faith is not limited to the Hebrew people exclusively, but is, in fact, available to all people. This woman trusts that even Jesus' “leftovers” are sufficient to heal her daughter. Recognizing her faith, Jesus responds mercifully.

In this very moment, readers witness Jesus grow/evolve/transform in his broadening comprehension that all people, not just a chosen, select group are part of God's universal family. God wants all God's children to have faith in God and receive God's mercy, not just some. How promising it is to see that even Jesus needed to break through this spiritual challenge.

How might we facilitate and nurture unity among all God's children? How might we let go of all the old labels and assumptions and trust that all people belong to God and therefore are entitled to receive God's mercy? Through God's grace, may we all learn to live in unity with one another and God. Shalom!
(-- Dr. Stagg)

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...

Tom Hughey will have eye surgery on Aug. 11, to repair his eye lens. Barb Rothenberger is home recovering from cataract surgery. Jim Silvey passed away on the morning of Aug. 11. Our condolences go out to his wife Billie and their family. Services are pending.



Staff Away...



After the 21 weeks of altered worship planning and implementation, two staff will be taking some time off. Rev. Jimmy Spear is out of the office for vacation from August 10-24. Michael Sauer will be off Sunday, August 16.



Notes of THANKS

Dear Congregation of First Christian Church,

Thank you so much for your continued support of my education. This money will go to books, lab fees, and art supplies and is greatly appreciated. Knowing my church family stands behind me as I pursue my goals gives me confidence and that is also a gift I cherish.

Thank you again, **Max Schaefer**

Dear FCC,

I wanted to say how grateful I am to have received the John Ridgeway Scholarship. As I go through the process of transferring from a two-year to a four-year, it's reassuring to know I still have my church family alongside me.

Many thanks, **Kimberly Potthast**

Dear FCC Youth,

Thank you so much for cleaning our van [last week]! It is beautiful, simply gorgeous! Please pray that Dana and I will one day be able to return to worship at FCC. We so wish we could enter the Sanctuary of First Christian. In the meantime, we so appreciate the YouTube videos and encourage everyone to click the "Like" button, as that increases our online presence.

Love to everyone, **Bryant & Dana Savidan**

Weekly Bible Study and Fellowship

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 Jimmy Spear to be connected. Join us!

FELLOWSHIP & LEARNING:

Mid-week Connect with Rev. Spear: None 8/12, 8/19

Bible Study with Dr. Stagg: Wednesdays at Noon

STUDENT MINISTRY: Chi-Rho and CYF: On pause for summer break. Email/GroupMe texts will offer updates.

Departments, committees, and Cabinet meetings are all held on Zoom.



Bit from Brad

In ministry, particularly during seminary, we frequently discuss the meaning of "Calling," that is what does it mean to be called to serve God? Whether ordained or lay, every person of faith must wrestle with their calling. "The Call," as it's often referred to, has two parts: the inner and the outer call. The Inner Call is the interior conscience, the intuitive soul within us that prompts us to pursue a certain action or lifestyle. The Outer Calling is when others recognize and affirm that interior calling. Or, in instances when the Outer Calling precedes the Inner Calling, it is the impetus where others recognize the gifts of ministry that we might otherwise have let go unnoticed. There is no right path. For some, the Call begins as an Inner Calling confirmed by an Outer Calling; still others the Call commences when others recognize the gifts of serving God in us first and only after personal prayer and reflection do we then in-turn confirm what everyone else has long since seen in us. No one way is normative. But always there is both an Inner and Outer Calling.

One of our members, **Kim Leon**, is wrestling with her Call. Prompted by the Holy Spirit's Inner Calling, Kim has enrolled in seminary at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa (formerly located in Enid, Ok.), taken many classes including the rigorous Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), and applied for ordination through the Mid-America Region of the Disciples of Christ's Committee on Ministry a.k.a., RCOM (Regional Committee on Ministry. In our denominational tradition, each ministry candidate/seminarian has two sponsoring bodies: 1) The Region – representing the General Church and 2) a local congregation. In Kim's case, First Christian Church, Columbia, Mo., is Kim Leon's sponsoring congregation.

Along the way, we will support Kim in a variety of ways. First, we must pray for Kim. Pray for her studies; her prayer life; her physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being; and her family. We will support her financially, not only through scholarships for classwork, but we will underwrite 1/3 of the Psychological Examinations required of all seminarians. Another third will be provided by the Mid-America Region, and the final third by Kim herself, and thus representing the three-party partnership required of the Exterior/Interior Calling. Other requirements will be asked of us down the road, such as hosting her ordination and other things along the way.

The Calling of clergy and laity are important roles of the church and a sure sign of congregational vitality. May God bless and watch over Kim Leon, the Mid-America Region, and First Christian Church as together we engage in the Calling of Ministry for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen!

Blessings, **Dr. Brad**



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Ministerial Staff:

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
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 Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
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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
 Keith Picker, Custodian

Return Service Requested



 **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK!**

- | | |
|---|---|
| Aug. 16 – Louis Janssen,
Joyce Stanley | Aug. 19 – Carol Hughey,
Quinn Fullington,
Lillian Schaefer |
| Aug. 17 – Elizabeth Mottaz | Aug. 21 – Susan Gray |
| Aug. 18 – Brock Booska,
Nora Dietzel,
Sharon Smith | Aug. 22 – Taylor Humble |

 **ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK!**

- | | |
|---|---|
| Richard & Suellen Wells
- August 14 -
51 Years | Clifford & Mary Tompson
- August 21 -
69 Years |
|---|---|

Congratulations!