

A Day for Baptisms & Baby Dedication

It was a great Sunday on May 9, as we welcomed into membership and discipleship three young people (pictured below left to right) **Kenzie Von Talge, Ann Volmert, and Ryley Batterson**. The day was added to by the chance to finally all be together in the sanctuary with the **Scott and Shannon Schaefer** family to bless and dedicate their little boy, **Teller Crowe Schaefer**. He was all smiles and the most precious spirit.



the VISITOR

May 14, 2021
Vol. 78, No. 8

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

Happening Soon

SATURDAY, MAY 15

- Breakfast for Brethren, 7-9am, YFH

SUNDAY, MAY 16

- Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- Graduating Seniors' Recognition
- Deadline for CWF Silent Bazaar
- On-Site Worship Service, 9:30am
- CYF Event, Noon, Off-site

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, Noon, Zoom
- Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

THURSDAY, MAY 20

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MAY 22

- Breakfast for Brethren, 7-9am, YFH

SUNDAY, MAY 23

- Celebration Sunday, Honor Rev. Spear
- On-Site Worship Service, 9:30am

KINDLY RSVP FOR EVENTS ONLINE:

FIRSTCHRISTIAN.ORG/EVENT-RSVP



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

ALL WORSHIP OPTIONS: 3 WAYS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 9:30AM:

On-site, in-person worship is held in the Sanctuary at 9:30am.
See below for new mask and social-distancing requirements.

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 in this newsletter.

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 16TH

"Life Eternal"

1 John 5:6-13

Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*

HS Senior Recognition Sunday

Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching

New In-Person Worship Protocols

Information for this Sunday

Here is *NEW* information on FCC's New Social Distancing Protocols approved by Officers and Senior Minister on May 10 in light of the city & county not extending the social distancing protocol mandates effective Wednesday, May 12. These protocols will remain in effect through June 6, at which time they will be reevaluated. See the back page for more information.

Annual Stewardship Campaign

April 18 - May 16

Week Five by Will & Donna Houston

Fifty-eight years ago, we moved my family here from Rangely, a small town in Western Colorado where Will had been teaching in a junior college that had a dental hygiene program. We came to Columbia for Will to teach at Christian College. We knew no one in town, but we started coming to First Christian Church. Most of you probably realize that teachers don't make a lot of money. We have always felt that it was important to help support the church, and off times, we have done so with talent. We have, in the past, renovated the janitor's closet which had been part of the coal bin in our old heating system, and required two coats of KILLS before a final coat of paint. We also renovated the sacristy, and built the lectern used mainly in first service, and another for Morris Parlor.

The church has been a place where friends were made, and many were lost. As our children have grown, so too have other children grown, been baptized, and taken on responsibilities. Six ministers and a number of associates have come and gone. But with God's help, First Christian has remained a welcoming and loving congregation. As Will would go off to work, Donna was at home, alone and lonely. She was so grateful for the invitation to attend Brummett-Harrah CWF Group. She could put a face on those we saw at church. Our children were baptized here at First Christian. Our daughter was married here at First Christian. Will's brother, Don came to live here, joined the church and his funeral service was here at First Christian. And during all of these events, we saw friends, a church family. That's what makes giving of our time and talents so important. Please fill out your Pledge Card and your Talent Sheet. Keep First Christian a welcoming community of Christian friends.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS THIS SUNDAY - MAY 16TH.

News of the People

Gratitude...

Thanks to all for the beautiful flowers and the many birthday cards! Also, I really enjoyed Jimmy's visit. -- **Doris Neidhardt**

Healing...

Thelma Beem is back home after a hospital stay. Prayers for **Fred Mottaz** who will have foot surgery on May 19. Fred will be home-bound for at least two weeks.

Bible Study IN-PERSON resumes in June...

For those who have been joining the weekly zoom Bible study for the past year, we will resume in-person gatherings on:

Tues., June 1, 10:30am, Morris Parlor

Wed., June 2, 12:00pm, Bethany Hall



Live Courageously

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Celebration Sunday

HONORING

Rev. Jimmy Spear

IN GRATITUDE OF HIS 14 YEARS OF MINISTRY
AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, COLUMBIA

Sunday, May 23rd | Following 9:30 Worship
Yonker Fellowship Hall

RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE OR ONLINE

Celebration Information

May 23 — Worship & Reception

To celebrate the 14 years Jimmy has served FCC, a celebration is being planned for his last Sunday, May 23. You will be an important part in making that day a success by your presence! The celebration will start with presentations in worship and continue with a reception in Yonker Fellowship Hall.



Book of Letters

A book of letters will be assembled for Jimmy to let him know how much we appreciate his time here in Columbia and the enormous contributions he has made to our lives and our church. Everyone is encouraged to write a note, which will be assembled into a scrapbook of memories put together by Brenda Mosby and presented in church on Celebration Sunday. Since Jimmy's last Sunday with us is less than a month away, we don't have a lot of time, so we urge that you get the letters in to the church office as quickly as possible. Send letters to the Church Office, attn: Fred Mottaz. Fred will see that Brenda gets the letters promptly.

Congregational Love Gift

Donations are welcomed from all members of the congregation for a monetary gift to be given to Jimmy in appreciation for his 14 years of ministry to First Christian Church. Send your confidential contribution to JIMMY SPEAR FUND, First Christian Church, attn: Fred Mottaz.

— Genie Rogers, Administrative Department

Home Worship for Sunday, May 16

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 AND PRAYER.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
God invites us to bring our doubts and fears,
our joys and concerns, our petitions and praise,
and offer them for the earth and all its creatures.
Let us pray for this season's graduates, school children
finishing up a hectic year, teachers in need of a well-
deserved respite, friends who are alone, places in the
world where COVID is rampant, the safety of our world
opening back up, the presence of God in all things...

Receive these prayers, O God, and transform us
through them, that we may have eyes to see and
hearts to understand not only what you do on our be-
half, but what you call us to do so that your realm will
come to fruition in glory. With other disciples we set
out to be people of The Way—Jesus' way. Help us to
know the path well, help others to join us, and keep
our eyes on what is ahead. We live in the good
knowledge of you being behind us and with us. Amen.

READ SCRIPTURE. Psalm 1

Be Thou My Vision

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Trad. Irish song tr. Mary Bryne (1905), versed by Eleanor
H. Hull (1912) Tune: SLANE Chalice Hymnal # 595

MEDITATION. A happy tree

Happy are those who delight in the law of the LORD. Happy are those who day and night are connected to God's way. Happy are those who enjoy the fruits of faithfulness. Happy are those who chose to live the way of love. Happy are those who seek out others to share the way of God. Happy are those who will love instead of hate, be positive instead of negative, look on the side of light rather than dark. Happy are those who remember the days past and are glad for them, the times and places of blessing.

Can you make your own list? Use this model: The condition of the spirit (happy) *plus* the way of faithful living. When making your list, consider the connection your spirit has to the work of God. Seek out the ways of God that have shown you the way to live a life of truth and peace. Is the happy spirit connected to times and places where justice and kindness lived?

Today's Psalm also deals quite heavily with the opposite of the happy condition. The advice/way of the wicked and the path of sinners is noted in no uncertain terms. We get the point! There is a difference.

For those who do choose to delight in the ways of God, the psalmist gives this metaphor: "They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield fruit and never wither." What a great way to think of how we can be rooted and fruitful in faith.

On a personal note, as we enter our last few weeks of shared ministry, I feel like such a tree. In these 14 years, I have been planted by a good stream of water and found ways to be fruitful for God. Our shared years have been ones that we have chosen to be happy, delighting in the work and mystery of God. In this, we have prospered much. Thanks be to God. *(-Jimmy Spear)*

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 good news of God lived out in Jesus Christ. May God's joy and love abide in your days and ways. Amen.



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

New Worship Protocols

Continued from page 1: Info for this Sunday

- Masks must be worn at ALL indoor gatherings, if and when individuals under 16 participate, including worship, nursery, youth groups/trips, MDO, etc.
- While the blue tape will be removed from pews, attendees are asked to **maintain 6'** social distance from children under 16.
- **9:30am** in the Sanctuary: Gathering music begins at 9:15. Please do not wait until 9:28 to arrive as all are entering via the same process of communion pick-up, offering drop, etc.
- Bibles & Hymnals will be returned to the pews.
- **Reservations will NO longer be required.**
- Nursery care is offered for children under 6 years.
- Remember: COVID-19 is still present in the world. By attending, you confirm that all attendees are/have: fever-free; 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 10 days - not positive/awaiting results for COVID test.
- Sanitizer and masks are available.

Happy Birthday!



May 16 Richard Barnard
May 17 Cindy Ruffolo
May 18 Jean Hall
May 19 Jacob Alexander
May 21 Amy Green,
Billie Silvey (90!),
Andrew Stormer
May 22 Linda Hamilton

Give to CWF Silent Bazaar

Thanks to all who have contributed thus far to the CWF annual Silent Bazaar. There is still time to contribute to the many areas of giving CWF connects FCC to in our church community. To donate by May 16, mail donations to the office or give via the Offering Basket at Sunday worship.