



## Sunday Coffee Hour *Zoom or Phone at 9:30am*

The group continues to grow as a new fellowship opportunity called *virtual coffee hour* takes to the airwaves on Sunday mornings. Bring your coffee, get your toast ready, and jump online to visit with other folks.

Join Zoom Meetings: <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 9:30am.

### WORSHIP: TWO WAYS

**AT-HOME ONLINE:** Watch our recorded service on our YouTube channel at *"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"*

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

### 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 17

Seeing Greater Things

John 1:43-51

DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

## DOC Winter Break Mission

*College student group serves and learns locally*

The DOC (college student group) was not able to take its usual winter break mission trip the first week of January because of the pandemic. They did, however, spend Friday and Saturday of the week in local learning and serving opportunities. A group of 8 learned and served at Turning Point (the day center for the homeless population). After a learning tour and as the building was empty in the afternoon, DOC students spread out to deep clean walls, railings, and outdoor trash at the Wilkes Blvd UMC location. The group also assisted a Kiwanis project of placing children's books in neighborhood "little libraries" around Columbia. There was about an hour's worth of work to be done at our own FCC for a nice-sized group of strong folks helping with some projects that needed many hands in recent months. Finally, the DOC group spent Saturday morning serving at Mobility Worldwide (formerly PET)/Rainbow Network helping to load some 2,000 boxes of donations to partner organizations in Central America.



## Friday Night Classics!

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Cinema

Friday, Jan. 22, 7pm

Fresh popcorn served

50¢ soda available in Yonker Hall.

**RSVP required** to ensure safe spacing—email or call the office to reserve a seat!



## the VISITOR

January 15, 2021  
Vol. 79, No. 112

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

## Happening Soon

SUNDAY, JAN. 17

- Coffee Hour, 9:30am, Zoom
- Virtual Worship, YouTube
- No Youth Groups

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 22

- Friday Night Classics, 7pm, Cinema

SUNDAY, JAN 24

- Coffee Hour, 9:30am, Zoom
- Virtual Worship, YouTube
- Chi Rho, 5pm, Yonker Hall

MONDAY, JAN. 25

- Deadline, Leadership Nominations

## Happy Birthday!

- Jan. 12 Patricia Hoehle (92!)
- Jan. 17 Carolyn Savoy, Mason Stevens
- Jan. 18 Mike Mountjoy
- Jan. 21 John Crane, Susan Klockow
- Jan. 23 Matthew Hoepfner, Ella Rose Rogers



A congregation related to  
The Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
[www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)



# News of the People

## Sympathy

**Charles Dysart**, 91, died Dec. 25. He and his late wife Mary, were longtime members with Charles being baptized/joining in 1945. A service will be held Jan. 15, at Memorial Funeral Home.

## Prayers

Prayers requested for **Shannon Schaefer's step-father Dean Bennet** who has returned to the hospital with health concerns relapsing due to COVID-19. **Glenda Clark** is now home.

## Outreach Stewardship

By the numbers, combined contributions by church members/friends during the Christmas season were as follows: \$820 donated to Heifer International; \$4,630 donated to Voluntary Action Center (VAC) holiday program through cash donations. That does not include the donations of those who shopped/purchased gifts for the people that they adopted.

## Sunday Worship Update

Worship will continue on YouTube ONLY for the month of January. Onsite worship on Sundays, added to the YouTube offering, will be considered at the end of January for the month of February. We will once again reassess whether or not to return to Onsite Worship on a week-by-week basis. While Boone County numbers are down, there is anticipation that those numbers will increase following recent holidays. The return of our college students will increase opportunities for the virus to spread. Our hope is that vaccines will begin making some sort of impact in the near future. There will be two-week notice to a return to onsite worship. Thanks for your continued hope.



## Bit from Brad

Last Wednesday, January 6, 2021, will forever be remembered as a day of tragedy and heroics, a day of infamy and resiliency in our nation's history. On Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, the President of the United States, his son, and his attorney incited a crowd at a rally of their organizing to march on our nation's Capitol while Congress was in session to disrupt the certification process of the Electoral College, resulting in a riot which included the storming, destruction & vandalism of the U.S. Capitol, bodily injury, and loss of life. Not only was it an attack on the People's House, it was an attack on democracy and freedom.

Because of the attack and threat to their lives, the vice president, the speaker of the house, all the senators and members of the House of Representatives, and the staff of the Capitol withdrew to safety – a day of tragedy and infamy.

Afterward, the Secret Service and other members of law enforcement eventually dispersed the rioting mob. Regardless of the grave threat, the vice president and all the members of Congress returned to their posts and completed their sworn duty to fulfill their responsibilities of the Constitution of the United States of America – a day of heroics and resiliency.

10:52 AM  
01/05/21  
Cash Basis

## First Christian Church General Fund Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July through December 2020

Ordinary Income/Expense	Jul - Dec 20	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
OFFERINGS	200,187.78	225,640.00	-25,452.22	88.7%
PERMANENT FUND	93,996.10	94,746.10	-750.00	99.2%
PROGRAMS	91,116.19	124,536.35	-33,420.16	73.2%
RENTAL	5,370.05	12,388.00	-7,017.95	43.3%
SOURCES - OTHER	2,498.59	1,832.50	666.09	136.3%
TRANSFERRED MEMORIAL FUNDS	0.00	5,750.00	-5,750.00	0.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>393,168.71</b>	<b>464,892.95</b>	<b>-71,724.24</b>	<b>84.6%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>393,168.71</b>	<b>464,892.95</b>	<b>-71,724.24</b>	<b>84.6%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
ADMINISTRATIVE	222,583.98	235,954.52	-13,370.54	94.3%
ADULT EDUCATION	135.50	475.00	-339.50	28.5%
ADVENT	67.33	525.00	-457.67	12.8%
CHILDREN EDUCATION	1,343.53	1,575.00	-231.47	85.3%
COL. AREA OLDER ADULT MINISTRY	37,798.41	42,039.54	-4,241.13	89.9%
COMMUNICATION	8,302.37	8,609.96	-307.59	96.4%
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	0.00	275.00	-275.00	0.0%
EVANGELISM	0.00	1,400.00	-1,400.00	0.0%
MEMBERSHIP	0.00	1,625.00	-1,625.00	0.0%
MOTHERS DAY OUT	47,105.39	67,849.71	-20,744.32	69.4%
OFFICE	8,349.17	8,598.50	-249.33	97.1%
OUTREACH MINISTRIES	12,015.39	16,582.15	-4,566.76	72.5%
PROPERTY	55,959.75	72,225.00	-16,265.25	77.5%
SCHOLARSHIP	13,880.00	12,630.00	1,250.00	109.9%
SERVICE BOARD OF DEACONS/ELDE...	0.00	555.00	-555.00	0.0%
STEWARDSHIP	131.00	0.00	131.00	100.0%
STUDENT MINISTRY	861.04	4,850.00	-3,988.96	17.8%
WORSHIP	1,759.25	4,292.50	-2,533.25	41.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>410,292.11</b>	<b>480,061.88</b>	<b>-69,769.77</b>	<b>85.5%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-17,123.40</b>	<b>-15,168.93</b>	<b>-1,954.47</b>	<b>112.9%</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
Other Expense				
44365 - Repair Fund Exp. Trf.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-17,123.40</b>	<b>-15,168.93</b>	<b>-1,954.47</b>	<b>112.9%</b>

Though the day was dark, the darkness could not overtake the light!

This great Republic of ours is founded on the principles of democracy, the belief that each person is granted by the Creator with certain inalienable rights and freedoms, which are protected, clarified, and, at times, amended through laws and elections of public officials. Democracy stands against tyranny, monarchy, and oligarchy; in which power and freedom is limited to one or a few. Freedom is light for the human soul and freedom is light for our collective civilization.

In Galatians 5:1, Paul wrote, "It is for freedom that Christ sets us free." Freedom is God's intended state for humanity. God wants us to live free; responsibly free. God sent Moses to deliver the Israelites from the oppression of Pharaoh's tyranny and God sent Jesus Christ to deliver humanity from the oppression of sin, death, and evil. May we forever stand firm against the oppression caused by the sins of hubris, vanity, greed, and unchecked ambition.

Let us give thanks to God Almighty who delivers us from darkness and whose light shines forth forever more. Thanks be to God whose mercy, grace, and love shall reign forever and ever! Amen.

Blessings, Dr. Brad



# Home Worship for January 17

*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 & PRAYER. *(Based upon Psalm 139)*

We praise you, O God.

*You have known us since before we were born.*

We love you, O God.

*You know us better than we know ourselves.*

We worship you, O God.

*Your knowledge is more wonderful than we can imagine.*

We glorify you, O God.

*Your creation is ever-changing and ever-amazing.*

We praise you, O God.

*Your love is with us forever.*

Loving God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Our prayers are in your heart even before they are on our lips. And yet we must utter our prayers. We must proclaim our praise of you and all your wondrous creation. Your love surrounds us and you have promised to be with us always. You know our hearts' desire to serve you. We pray that you will keep us true to that desire. And so we utter our prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

*We've a story to tell to the nations,  
that shall turn their hearts to the right,  
a story of truth and mercy,  
a story of peace and light,  
a story of peace and light.*

*[REFRAIN:] For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
and the dawning to noonday bright;  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,  
the kingdom of love and light.*

*We've a song to be sung to the nations,  
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord;  
a song that shall conquer evil  
and shatter the spear and sword,  
and shatter the spear and sword. [REFRAIN]*

*We've a message to give to the nations,  
that the Lord who reigneth above  
hath sent us his Son to save us,  
and show us that God is love,  
and show us that God is love. [REFRAIN]*

*We've a Savior to show to the nations,  
who the path of sorrow hath trod,  
that all of the world's great peoples  
might come to the truth of God,  
might come to the truth of God. [REFRAIN]*

By H. Ernest Nichol      Tune: MESSAGE  
Chalice Hymnal #484

### LIGHT.

Continue to light the Christ candle in these days as a reminder of the light now fully come to our embrace of a new year.

### READ SCRIPTURE. Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

### MEDITATION.

Considering the creation of the world and all humankind is a lot to behold. Considering the presence of God in every part of our very being is a lot to behold. Considering God as the one who knows us before, during, and after; close up and far away; lying down and rising up; is a lot to behold. The psalmist writes about these musings of faith in #139. After consideration of all God's knowledge of us, verses 17-18 end this section with these words: *How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them -- they are more than the sand; I come to the end -- I am still with you.*

How weighty – how every important/strong/critical/lasting – are the thoughts of God to us who consider the knowledge of God in this world. To think about the thoughts of God in sheer number is beyond what we can even try to count. How great is our God. With this in mind, there is one more move the psalmist makes: *I come to the end – I am still with you.* Despite the vastness, the weight, the sheer number and knowledge of God's thoughts, we are still committed to be a part of God. We are still committed to being a little, but known creation to God. We are still committed to being a close and familiar creation to God.

It is one of the great mysteries of our faith. We are so small in the vastness of our God, yet we are a big deal from beginning to end to the one who created us. The writers of psalms are able to put into words the feelings of our faith. What are your words that describe the thoughts of God? Are these from 139 able to help along the path? Continue to be in wonder and conversation with God in these days. (-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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web: [firstchristian.org](http://firstchristian.org)

Return Service Requested



## First Christian Church

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

### Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister  
[brad@firstchristian.org](mailto:brad@firstchristian.org)  
Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister  
[jimmy@firstchristian.org](mailto: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](mailto:tracy@firstchristian.org)

### Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry

Rev. Sally Robinson, Director  
Kim Leon, Assistant Director

### Support Staff

Laura Hunsaker, Office Manager  
[laura@firstchristian.org](mailto:laura@firstchristian.org)  
Fred Mottaz, Business Manager  
[fred@firstchristian.org](mailto:fred@firstchristian.org)

## 2021 Leadership Nomination Form

For a full breakdown of qualifications/duties for each role, as well as an electronic form for submissions, please visit [firstchristian.org/nominations](http://firstchristian.org/nominations). **SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE JAN. 25TH.**

**NAME OF NOMINEE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE:** *Please check the position for which your nomination is being made:*

**(FOR THE SERVICE BOARD):** ELDER \_\_\_\_ DEACON \_\_\_\_ JR. DEACON \_\_\_\_

**(FOR HONORARY):** ELDER \_\_\_\_ DEACON \_\_\_\_

Why are you nominating this person? *(Attach a letter of support if you need more room):*

\_\_\_\_\_

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AWARDS

The Nominating Committee also requests nominations for Outstanding Service Awards.

**PERSON YOU WISH TO RECOGNIZE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you recognizing this person? *(Attach a letter of support or use the back of this form.):* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_