



## the VISITOR

February 19, 2021  
Vol. 79, No. 117

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

### Happening Soon

#### SUNDAY, FEB. 21

- On-Site Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Coffee Hour, 11:00am, Zoom
- CYF, 12-2pm, YFH
- Chi-Rho Movie, 5-7pm, Cinema

#### MONDAY, FEB. 22

- Loaves & Fishes Ministry, Wilkes Blvd.
- Nominating Com. Mtg, 6:30pm, Zoom

#### TUESDAY, FEB. 23

- DOC College Group, 7:30pm, YFH

#### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

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

#### FRIDAY, FEB. 26

- Friday Night Classic, 7:00pm, Cinema

### Happy Birthday!

- Feb. 23 Jacki Davidson, Brooke Storm  
Feb. 25 Sarah Read  
Feb. 26 Ryan Boger, Kim Rogers,  
Doug Smith  
Feb. 27 Elizabeth Hensley (100!)



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



FIRST SUNDAY  
*in*  
LENT

## RECLAIMING GOD'S COVENANTS

Worship for Sunday, February 21

“The Noahic Covenant” - Genesis 9:8-17

Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching

Hymn of the day: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

### 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 has resumed at **9:30am** in the sanctuary.  
More information is found on page 2.

An **RSVP** is needed for all attending Sunday morning.

When you give generously to the Week of Compassion, you let love flow. You empower families and communities around the world to live healthier, safer, more hope-filled lives.

## Week of Compassion

Plan your special offering today - mail to the church, bring to church the next two Sundays, or give online at [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)

Let love flow.



FEBRUARY 21-28



Nobody hungry,  
nobody thirsty,  
shade from the sun,  
shelter from the wind,  
For the Compassionate  
One guides them,  
takes them to the  
best springs.

~ Isaiah 49:10  
*(The Message)*

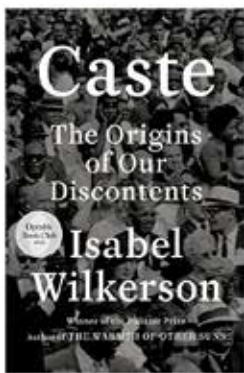
## Worship In-person at Church:

Information for this Sunday, February 21

- 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](mailto: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.

## Community Book Study by Race Forward

*Caste*, by Isabelle Wilkerson begins March 4



The Race Forward group is coordinating a study of the book, "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson. The book compares racism in the United States to the Caste system in India and explores the way the racist strategies were used by Hitler and the Third Reich in Germany.

A kickoff for this book study is planned for March 4, on Zoom. Groups are forming and most will start in March. Most groups will meet via Zoom. A syllabus is available. In addition to the various book study groups,

Zoom sessions with guest speakers addressing issues in the book will be available. It is suggested that groups consider an eight-session study, but groups will be flexible. The first Zoom session is March 4, with guest speaker Dr. Brad Nichols from the MU History Department whose research focuses on "Caste systems."

We know one study group will meet on Monday evenings starting in early March and one group will meet on Thursday evenings starting on March 4. Both of these groups will meet on Zoom. To find out more and join one of the forming groups, please contact Don Day (member at Broadway Christian Church) at [dday@centurytel.net](mailto:dday@centurytel.net) or 573-819-7779. Rev. Sally Robinson will be connecting to this group, also.

## Birthday #100 for Elizabeth Hensley!

In the year of COVID, BIG card parties are all the rage. All are encouraged to send birthday greetings to our friend, Elizabeth Hensley on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, February 27!

**Mrs. Elizabeth Hensley**  
802 Greenwood, Columbia, MO 65203



## News of the People

**Charlie and Betty Koelling** continue to improve from COVID-19 and have moved across Lenoir Woods to Bradford Manor. Best wishes as they settle in. An address can be provided from the church office. **Glenda Clark** continues to recuperate at Columbia Post-Acute from recent hip surgery. **Susan Gray**, prayers of sympathy in the recent loss of two extended family members.

**Renewed Certified:** It was the perfect morning for time in retreat at home and via zoom for **Tracy Evers, Elizabeth Mottaz, Colleen Nilges, Sarah Read, Barb Rothenberger, and Jimmy Spear**. The group decided it was time well spent and a spiritual practice to do again.

## Friday Night Classics!

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Cinema

Friday, Feb 26, 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!



# Home Worship for February 21

*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.

Come, all you people, come and worship.

*God has made a covenant with us.*

Come, all creatures of the earth, come and worship.

*God has made a covenant with all creatures.*

Remember the covenant and be thankful.

*God remembers the covenant and God will save us.*

Faithful God,

you called all creatures into being,  
and you care for each one.

Send your grace upon your people today,  
that we may follow your ways of truth,  
and walk in the paths of steadfast love,  
proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**READ SCRIPTURE.** Genesis 9:8-17

### All Creatures of our God and King

*All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*O burning sun with golden beam,  
O silver moon with softer gleam:*

*Refrain*

*O praise God, O praise God,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*O rushing wind with voice so strong,  
you clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise God, Alleluia!*

*O rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
you lights of evening find a voice: [Refrain]*

*O flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for your God to hear,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*O blazing fire who lights the night,  
providing warmth, enhancing sight, [Refrain]*

*And all forgiven tender hearts,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
sing praises, alleluia!*

*You who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God, who knows your ev'ry care. [Refrain]*

By Francis of Assisi (1225), William Draper

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN Chalice Hymnal #22

**MEDITATION.** *Take up the practice.*

God would be in the practice of creating covenants throughout the generations. Today's story from the first book tells of one of the early times when God spoke covenant words. Later, we see that it becomes a practice of God in relation to the people. How does this text speak to our beginning of the Lenten journey?

Often, we think of a spiritual practice worthy of God in the six weeks of the holy season called Lent. The spiritual practice of fasting — the giving up of a vice or element of normal life — allows the Spirit to enter that freed space and be at work. The weeks leading up to Jesus' passion, death and resurrection are a time of reflection and renewal for the disciple. If we consider our own mortality, our sin, and our need for focus on God's work in our lives, we find our spirit's ready to engage the story of Jesus differently. Spiritual practices in the Lenten season connect the newly-opened space in our spirits with the Spirit of God.

The covenant established by God with Noah in Genesis 9 is such a powerful message of setting the future on a course of goodness. Never again would God respond to unfaithfulness by destroying the earth with a flood. The text also notes that God is committed to remembering the covenant established with Noah and all descendants to come. Such a covenant is a prime example of a practice that can be taken up in this season. Remembering, changing course for the future, or finding a new way to engage with God could be practices that would allow God to enter our lives differently. Don't forget — that as God is in the practice of making covenants, so we, too, can establish new and creative signs that can extend to others and ourselves. These signs of covenant help keep us on track to better shared living here in creation. Covenant, signs, and fasting—all themes to the season of Lent. May it be so with us. 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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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  
Dr. 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)

## 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 21: CYF 12-2pm rescheduled movie with pizza

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.