



the VISITOR

March 19, 2021
Vol. 79, No. 120

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, MAR. 21

- On-Site Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Coffee Hour, 11am, Zoom
- JYF Pizza Lunch, 12-1:15pm, YFH
- Chi-Rho, 5pm, YFH

TUESDAY, MAR. 23

- DOC College Group, 7:30pm, YFH

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 24

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

SATURDAY, MAR. 27

- FCC Landscaping Work Day, 9am

Happy Birthday!

- Mar. 21 Russ Palmer, Lexie Ruffolo,
Beckett Karr, Wolf Schaefer
- Mar. 24 Jonathan LaHue,
Kirsten Leach,
Helen Stemmons (90!)
- Mar. 25 Natalie Barnard
- Mar. 27 Kira Hoenes



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

RECLAIMING GOD'S COVENANTS

Worship for Sunday, March 21

"The New Promise" Jeremiah 31:31-34

Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching
Hymn of the day: *Amazing Grace*



FIFTH SUNDAY
in
LENT

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.



Easter Egg Hunt

Sun., March 28
2:00pm

Pre-K to 5th grade
Location: Rogers' Lawn
1500 Bus. Loop 70 East

Families will receive email with directions.

Sunday Coffee Hour

SUNDAY at 11:00am Zoom or Phone

Join the fellowship of Sunday virtual coffee hour. Pour your coffee and jump online to visit with other FCC friends.

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

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

March 28

9:00am, the Downtown Blessing of the Palms held this year at the Courthouse Amphitheatre
9:30am, Sanctuary Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 1, 6:30pm
Holy Communion &
Service of Tenebrae

EASTER SUNDAY

Two Services on April 4
8:30am & 10:30am

RSVP now! Call/email the church office or visit

firstchristian.org/worship-rsvp.

Baptism Candidates

Our 6th and 7th graders recently completed the Baptism and Discipleship Class held March 13-14. The group studied scripture, uncovered church history, talked theology -- all in the interest of accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior. Six Cs guided their conversations: confession, contrition, covenant, community, connection, and church. They scoured the hymnal for creeds, wrote a shared statement of belief, toured the history room, and examined the symbols of faith found in the Sanctuary.



The group pictured above includes l to r: **Aubrey Schomaker, Ann Volmert, Ryley Batterson, Jodie Silverwood, Kenzie Von Talge, Alex Johnson, Brady Marrero, Sam Pine,** and Jimmy Spear. Baptism will take place in late April in the 9:30am service.

News of the People & Place

Healing...

Prayers this week for **Genie Rogers** who is home recuperating from shoulder replacement surgery; **Trish Stagg's** sister **Christine Gonzales** (in Texas) continues to be in the hospital after suffering a stroke and has been placed on dialysis.

Sympathy extended to...

Eric Seaman on the passing of his mother, **Jeannette Seaman** on March 12. A service was held in Centertown, Mo., on March 16.

Save your roll tubes...

Please save your paper towel and toilet tissue roll tubes. We will use them to restock our craft room for the return of the children later this year. You can drop them off on the stage in Yonker Hall. We will also take stickers and cardboard egg cartons. Thanks!

Office Staff...

The church office staff continues to adjust to lightened COVID-19 work space restrictions. Laura Hunsaker, our office manager, has now returned to the church office as her primary work space after working from home for a year. Jimmy Spear continues to utilize a hybrid approach of church and home office work space. Plastic barriers will continue to offer a safety shield between staff and any visitors. A reminder to all who would like to RSVP to any church-related function: Please check out the church website for links to a really easy method to 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 **9:00am 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 be needed. **If you can join us on the 27th, please email or call/text, Mike Randerson ASAP at dmranderson@mchsi.com or 573-424-4858.** Our weather makeup day will be April 3, 9am to 12. Join us!

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 can be accessed from the church office or Jimmy Spear via email.

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



MAIL THIS FORM TO THE OFFICE WITH \$8.00 PER LILY BY TUES., MARCH 30TH.

A listing of donors will be in the *Visitor* as they will adorn the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday worship.

They will be available for pick up after Easter Sunday or as announced prior.

Name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

2 Order online at: firstchristian.org/Lily

Home Worship for March 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.

God's mercy floods over us.

Lord, wash me clean of the pain in my life.

God's love pours into us.

Lord, pour your love into every pore of my being.

God's care extends from us

Lord, walk with me as I care for others.

God's welcome embraces us.

Lord, let me bask in your holiness today.

God's presence is all around us.

Lord, I know you are here. Guide my life. Thank you.

PRAYER. Lord, I bring my praise, sin, and thanks before you this day as I commit myself to being your disciple. Help me to face the future unafraid, trusting your love and presence to help me grown in depth of spirit and breadth of faith. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

READ SCRIPTURE. John 12:20-33

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace first taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.*

By John Newton (1779)

Tune: NEW BRITAIN Chalice Hymnal # 546

MEDITATION.

The first weekend of March I overseeded the lawn. We have a lot of brown spots needing attention. So, I used "Kentucky 31 – Tall Fescue." It's a tall, hearty resilient grass. Hopefully, the March rains will bear green grass in April and May! The funny thing about grass seed is that it only produces a few blades of grass at time. One seed equals a clump of grass – not very fruitful. But that's the way it is. On the other hand, one apple seed can produce one apple tree which, in turn, can produce 500-700 pounds in apples and thousands more seeds. Granted, the grass grows much more quickly than the apple tree, but from a sheer production value, the apple seed certainly generates more fruit.

In today's passage, Jesus says, "Very truly, I tell you, **unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.** Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say--'Father, save me from this hour?' No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour."

Just as Jesus foretold his own mission to the cross, so too Jesus illuminates the path of life for us – whether grass, apple, or wheat seed, each must die so as to bear much fruit. Likewise, we too must die to our own selfish desires and sins.

What parts of your life need seeding? May you bear much fruit for the Lord! Amen.

(-bs)

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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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
Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
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Music Staff

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Dr. Rochelle Parker, Organist
Travis McFarlane, Musician

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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



Youth Groups

Sundays -- one hour.
Fellowship Hall.
Masks. Distance. Temps Taken.
Letting the air space settle.

JYF (grades 3, 4, 5):

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

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

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

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

DOC College Group

Regular gatherings continue on Tuesday nights with social distance and masks in Yonker Fellowship Hall at 7:30pm.

Summer Announced

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday-Thursday, evenings

June 20-24



CHURCH CAMP

at Camp Jo-Ota in Clarence, Mo.

CYF (9th-12th) June 6-11

Elementary (2nd-5th) June 12-16

Chi Rho (6th-7th) August 1-6

Try-It (parents & children up to 2nd)
August 6-8

8th Grade Camp about Faith & Bodies
(also open to 9th graders) is yet to be announced place/date.

Jimmy will email all parents with these dates and registration. For more information about camp & COVID safety go to: www.mid-american-disciples.org/summer