

• This Sunday, Nov. 22 •

## Worship: Two Ways

*Ezekiel 24:11-16, 20-24*

*Matthew 25:31-46*

*"The Shepherd-Judge"*

*Message by Dr. Brad Stagg*

*Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation*

### AT HOME ONLINE:

Watch our recorded service on our YouTube channel at:

*"First Christian Church  
(Columbia, Missouri)"*

### AT HOME LITURGY:

Provided on page 3

### AT CHURCH:

Canceled for November

## New Logo and Look

*Website and Visitor are all new!*

After more than 25 years, the weekly church newsletter "The Visitor" comes to your home and email inbox with a fresh look. In keeping with an updated church website, the Visitor and YouTube broadcasts will share the same refreshed look and logo.

There are some changes and we welcome your feedback. We have altered the spacing and size of type. We hope the newsletter continues to be easily read. Please let us know your needs. We will all be in a season of adjustment as this informational piece arrives on Friday/Saturday each week.

There is great value, especially during the pandemic, in keeping a weekly publication to communicate the ministry and mission of our church along with news of our people.

Thank you to the Communications Department (Allie Schomaker and Stacia Schaefer, specifically) for working on these important pieces that will keep us together while also putting our best face to the community at large.

For a more in-depth description of the new Website and its design, please see pages 3-4, written by Allie Schomaker, FCC's Comm. Dept. Chairperson.

## Advent Wreaths in Every Home

*Make an Advent Wreath for Nov. 29*

This Advent, all are encouraged to make an Advent Wreath at home for use each of the four Sundays in the season of preparation. Each week as we light a candle of the Advent Wreath in our online YouTube worship experience, all will be invited to do so at home. Having a wreath especially created for this season will add to the ways we can better prepare to do Advent and Christmas differently. Join us in sharing the lights of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this season.



### HOW TO MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH:

There is not one way to create an Advent Wreath. You can get supplies at the craft and hobby stores OR just use what you have at home. You will need:

- A "wreath" of some sort is helpful. Get creative! Perhaps a festive or antique plate or platter. Maybe there is a circular something in the garage. Perhaps you have an old wreath that needed a new purpose. Use paint, put some green garland together, cut some greens from the bushes in your yard — make sure to keep the flames away from the greens!
- 5 candles — 4 blue or purple, 1 white (or substitute/use what you have). Votives will work, tea lights can, too, but might need replacing as you go. Maybe tall tapers are the way you will go. The first two week's candles will have to burn for a total of 3 hours.
- Set up your "wreath" and candles: Create a space for them to be used as you watch worship online or use your Visitor Home Liturgy. Light them with us on Sundays each week adding a candle. The white candle goes in the center of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Eve.
- You will be invited to go long into the two weeks after Christmas to keep all the lights lit.
- Please send pictures of your wreaths to Jimmy Spear via text or email and they will be featured in the newsletter and on social media throughout the season.



# the VISITOR

November 20, 2020

Vol. 78, No. 105

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

## Happening Soon

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

- T'giving Zoom Gathering, 10:30am

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

- THANKSGIVING DAY

- Office Closed

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

- Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom

- Wednesday Bible Study,

12pm, Zoom

## Inside This Issue

PAGE 2: Cookies & Poinsettias

PAGES 3&4: New Website Design

PAGE 5: A Worship Liturgy

BACK PAGE: VAC Holiday Project

## Happy Birthday!

Nov. 25 Chanda Hughey

Nov. 28 Clara Judy



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

# Thanksgiving Zoom Gathering

Wednesday at 10:30am

The day before Thanksgiving (Nov 25), join with other church friends on a special Zoom gathering centered around the season of Thanksgiving. We will share the blessing of grateful hearts and be thankful together.



The weekly Zoom *Mid-Week Connect* group hopes others will join them for a Thanksgiving-themed time of fellowship and devotion. **There will NOT be Wednesday noon Bible Study on Nov. 25.** We invite those folks to join us at 10:30am instead.

**Zoom Meeting ID: 875 7508 1404**

You can also email/call Jimmy for assistance.

# Christmas Cookie Boxes

**12 Cookies per box for \$15**

## COOKIE ORDER FORM

Number of boxes \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 per box = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick Up Time: \_\_\_\_\_



Please place your order by **Tuesday, December 8.**

Place Order in 2 Ways

### MAIL ORDER TO:

First Christian Church,

101 North 10<sup>th</sup> St., Columbia, MO. 65201

**EMAIL ORDER TO:** [fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)

Cookie pickup will be

**Sunday, December 13, between 11am and 1pm**

Pickup on north side of the Church under the portico, or if worship is held in the Sanctuary in Yonker Fellowship Hall

**QUESTIONS?** Call Brenda Mosby at 573-881-8385.

- Sponsored by The Disciples Women's Fellowship -

# News of the People

## Prayers...

**Frances Brown** continues at Lenoir's REACH in isolation with symptoms after a positive COVID-19 test. **Billie Silvey** continues to rehabilitate at Boone Hospital. **Glenda Clark** is rehabilitating at The Neighborhoods following a hospital stay.

## Gratitude...

Thanks to the church for all the calls and prayers. Special thanks to Fred Mottaz for doing some shopping for us. We are doing much better!  
In Christ, **Dave and Thelma Beem**

## Other News...

Twenty folks joined the **Panel Conversation** over Zoom hosted by the Open and Affirming Exploration Team. Thanks chairperson Kim Leon for arranging four outside guests from churches familiar with the process of expanding welcome. Their insights and openness to sharing was helpful as we make further plans on educational events related to the Open and Affirming Process.

The **Season of Advent** is being planned with all worship services including the Blue service and the Christmas Pageant being recorded for viewing on the church's YouTube channel. A full listing of the advent activities will be featured in next week's *Visitor*.

The sanctuary could not be decorated this year in the usual way and many missed the chance to share in the tradition of "DECORATE night." Thanks to **Steve Humble, Dan Gieseke, Scott Schaefer, Ryan and Mason Silverwood** for putting up the big tree, and **Olivia and Alex Johnson** for getting all the decorations out of storage. These projects were all done with masks and socially distanced over the course of several days.



**MAIL THIS FORM TO THE OFFICE WITH \$8.00 PER POINSETTIA BY FRI., DEC. 4TH.**

A listing of donors will be in the *Visitor* in mid-December as they will adorn the Sanctuary for Dec. 13 worship.

They will be available for pick up after Christmas Eve or as announced prior.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_



## New FCC Visual Identity and Website Launched

*You may notice a new look to this week's Visitor and the FCC website. We are excited to unveil a new visual identity for First Christian Church!*

Last year, the Evangelism and Communications departments began discussing the possibility of an updated website for the church. In the early weeks of the pandemic, the website and online presence for FCC became a top priority as church members (and others across the country!) engaged with the church almost exclusively online.

In researching a solution for online giving (another important need for the church during the pandemic), members of the Communications Department discovered a company called Subsplash, which specializes in digital solutions for churches of all sizes. Subsplash proposed a solution not only for online giving, but also for a self-managed, flexible website, as well as a mobile app.

Control of the website was a key benefit, since our previous website was managed by an outside agency that charged fees for changes or additions. Church members and volunteers are excited to have a much more flexible solution that will allow us to be in the driver's seat and make adjustments and improvements quickly as needed. The Subsplash solution is also much more cost-effective than having a website built by an outside agency.

Check out the new website at [firstchristian.org](http://firstchristian.org). See the reverse of this page to learn more about our new logo.

### **In designing the new website, the team had several goals:**

- Our website is considered the "Front Door" of our church. The primary audience is people who are not familiar with FCC. The secondary audience is people who are familiar with us but need a specific piece of information. Writing style, imagery, etc. is used with this in mind.
- Highlight FCC's best qualities and give plenty of information without becoming overwhelming.
- Make people want to attend worship in person (or for now, view the YouTube service).
- Make it easy for people to find ways to participate.
- Look current and relevant in today's media, which will appeal to a broader audience. Current web trends:
  - Image-driven: high-quality images create intimacy and make people feel like they are there.
  - Break text into shorter, more digestible chunks of information to help people locate information they want quickly.
  - Plenty of white space to give eyes a rest and break up/organize information.

### **A new color palette was developed:**

- Two colors of blue and a neutral cool gray predominate; red is used as a highlight color.
- In color theory, blue feels calm, soothing, and relates to trustworthiness. It also works well because newer photos of the church feature the new blue carpet in the sanctuary.
- Red feels invigorating and exciting and relates to strength. It should be used more sparingly because it will always call attention to itself. This color is inspired by the traditional color of the Disciples of Christ logo.

# New First Christian Church Logo

*In addition to the website, we decided it was time to update the FCC logo. Other updates to our visual identity will involve changes to social media and our YouTube channel.*

## New logo design goals:

- Feature our long history but also look current
- Highlight one of our most recognizable features: our historical building
- Convey our attitude: “Classic in Style, Fresh in Spirit”
- Incorporate the Disciples logo (chalice)
- Be flexible with size and color scheme (can be used in white, black, or a color)

## Going Forward

These new tools will help committees like Communications and Evangelism welcome new people and support our current membership. The website will help our staff get information out more efficiently and with less effort and cost.

## Coming Soon: Mobile App!

A mobile app is also in the works and will be available in the coming weeks on both Android and Apple devices. The mobile app will be primarily for members of the congregation and will offer new ways to stay informed about church events, access worship and sermon content, help groups communicate, and much more. Stay tuned!



# Home Worship for November 22

*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—grape juice, wine, any beverage and cracker will do! Be in the spirit of the Holy!*

## WORD & PRAISE

### WELCOME GOD & PRAYER.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord.

*Worship God with gladness.*

Come into God's presence with singing.

*We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.*

Give thanks to the Lord; bless God's holy name,

*for God's steadfast love is present now and endures forever.*

Let us pray. Holy One, you have given us all that we have and all that we are. In your works we were created and in your hope we are sustained. There is nothing in us that is not from you. Keep us faithful in these days to give thanks for all your gifts, all our blessings, and the very chance we have to offer help and healing to others. Amen.

**READ SCRIPTURE.** Matthew 25:31-46

### For the Fruit of All Creation

*For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God;  
for the gifts to every nation,  
thanks be to God;  
for the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done;  
in our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God;  
for the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.*

By Fred Pratt Green (1901)

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS Chalice Hymnal # 714

**MEDITATION.** *Pick a side...*

The Sunday has arrived again: The chance to unpack Jesus' words to us about sheep and goats. The message today concerns being sheep — a metaphor for the ones who will inherit the Kingdom of God. You and me along with others we know, surely.

Jesus reminds us again in a rather haunting manner what it takes to be a sheep these days (and back in his days, too).

*"I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you gave me clothing, sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me."* These are all the conditions of this life of ours. This year of COVID and all the ones before. Our circumstances change with the seasons and age, but the conditions of life are ongoing. Hunger, thirst, stranger, naked, sick, in prison — each of us knows these well. Perhaps this is why we are called upon to be the one to bring a remedy of food, drink, welcome, clothing, care, and a visit to those in need of them. We know too well that these remedies interact with the conditions of our neighbors no matter the circumstances of our day and equal one thing — love. Of God. Of ourselves. Of neighbor. Jesus calls this being sheep and as the shepherd of God's sheep is the first to welcome us to the right hand of God because of how we would treat others.

In this week of offering thanks and reminding ourselves of what it is to be truly blessed, spend time thinking about your place in God's world — consider the times and places when the option was to live as a sheep or a goat. Consider the response of the one who also says, "you did it to me." 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.** As you have been blessed, go be a blessing to others—bringing the healing and love of God. Amen.



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573-449-7265  
email: fcc@firstchristian.org  
web: firstchristian.org

Return Service Requested



## First Christian Church

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

### Ministerial Staff

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

## Voluntary Action Center Holiday Project

*Sponsor individuals in need this Christmas*

**UPDATE: 20 of 58 adopted**



As Thanksgiving approaches so does our need to get all 58 individuals adopted that FCC has committed to sponsoring this Christmas season.

If this year's sign up method is scary and you are not able to use it, please call Elizabeth Mottaz or Jimmy Spear and you will be assisted! If you would like to donate funds that others would shop for you, please do so now. With monetary donations in early we can make plans for shopping for you. The Christmas Tree way of signing up in the Narthex is now for 2020 an online sign up through Sign Up Genius. You can select a person to adopt by using this link:

<https://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0B4FACAB2BA1FE3-vacholiday>

(Additional info. is provided on this website about adopting a person)

If you send in a financial donation to the church office please note "VAC Xmas." When adopting a person, the suggested amount for gift (s) is \$50-75 and an additional \$15 towards a Christmas dinner. Please help support this important mission! Please contact Outreach Mission co-chair, Elizabeth Mottaz, if you have questions. Thank you!

### VAC Project Summary

**NOW:** Go online to sign up for the family or individuals you will sponsor.

**LATER:** Special drop-off day is **Dec. 6th**, between 10:30am and 12:00pm in Yonker Hall. OR bring it by the church office the week of Dec. 7-11. **Money/gifts must be turned in by Friday, Dec. 11th.**