



**THE**  
August 21, 2020  
Vol. 77, No. 94

# First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) VISITOR

**Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ**

## Festival of Sharing - Sept. 2020

The Mission Outreach Department has decided to ask you to make a monetary donation to help us support the Festival of Sharing. You can purchase the items and bring them to the church on **Sunday, September 20, 2020 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

We have decided to do **10 Missouri Backpacks of Love**. These are for children ages 4-11 and includes the following items:

- 1 small backpack (no wheels on it),
- 1 child soft toothbrush,
- 1 tube child flavored toothpaste (4-6 oz),
- 1 t-shirt child medium or large,
- 1 small stuffed animal,
- 1 child narrow-tooth comb,
- 1 package with 3 pair underpants, and 1 pair of socks.

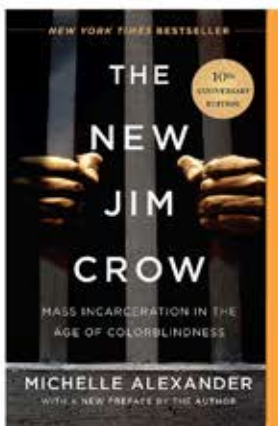


If you would like to make a donation, make the check to First Christian Church, put Festival of Sharing in the memo section and drop your check in the mail to 101 N. Tenth St. We will accept checks through September 20. If you would like to know more about the Festival, go to [www.festivalofsharing.org](http://www.festivalofsharing.org). Thanks, from your Mission Outreach Dept.

## Summer Critical Reading Groups

*There's still time to join!*

Lively discussions via Zoom between many church members have taken place based around two books that are both timely and important. There is still room and time for you to take part in these crucial dialogues for growth of the self, church and society, as a whole! If you feel the call to participate, see below for the book titles and when discussions are taking place. Email [fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org) or call the office to receive the Zoom invitation. You have plenty of time to catch up!



"The New Jim Crow"  
by Michelle Alexander

Next Meeting: Sun., Aug. 30  
Covering: Finish Book



"Raising White Kids"  
by Jennifer Harvey

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: Sun., Aug. 9  
Covering: Chps. 2,3,4



## Worship: 3 Ways

**Sunday, August 23**  
*at home or at church*

Matthew 16: 13-20

"Who Do You Say Jesus Is?"

Message by Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg



WORSHIP WITH US  
IN THREE WAYS:

**AT HOME, ONLINE:**

On our YouTube Channel  
*"First Christian Church (Columbia, MO)"*

OR

**AT HOME LITURGY:**

provided on page 2.

OR

**AT CHURCH:**

Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30am  
(RSVP via office phone or email)

[www.firstchristian.org](http://www.firstchristian.org)  
Instagram: @firstchristian.como  
[www.facebook.com/FirstChristianColumbiaMO](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianColumbiaMO)



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## Bit from Brad

As we continue adapting, learning, and overcoming the challenges COVID-19 presents our congregation, one area I wrestled with emotionally is the removal of our pew Bibles from our pews. Don't get me wrong – I understand the importance of social distancing and protection against viral contamination – and I am not about to reverse that decision during this crisis. But still at an emotional, gut level, it doesn't sit well with me.

Something about removing the printed word of God from the pews of the house of God leaves me, well, feeling uncomfortable at the least and unfaithful at the worst. Or, to put it more bluntly, it feels YUCK!! While I understand and even appreciate our Public Health Officials pointing out this potential viral hazard, as a teacher of Scripture, I've never been fully comfortable with removing the Scriptures. And, perhaps, none of us should be altogether comfortable about it. Who are we to remove the word of God from the people of God? Over the past three Sundays as we've returned to Onsite Worship, I'm acutely aware of my discomfort when we reach that point in worship where it's time to read the Scripture passage of the day. It has been my discipline for nearly 30 years of ministry to say something like, "Today's passage comes from such-and-such book of the Bible, Chapter x, Verses y-z. You may find the passage on page ABC of your pew Bible." I just agonize over it.

Then, this weekend, while preparing the sermon, a thought struck me like a bolt of lightning - Smartphones! Most of our folks attending worship have Smartphones that can access the internet. Our folks have access to literally dozens of versions of the Bible via their Smartphone, not only on Sunday mornings but 24/7. Hallelujah!

The online Bible website I personally use of my electronic Biblical studies is Bible Gateway at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). Providing 200 versions of the Bible in 70 languages, this online searchable Bible is an electronic beast of a tool. I encourage you to make time to explore it and add it as a "favorite" on your search engine page. This past Sunday I encouraged folks during the announcements to find the BibleGateway.com and be ready for the Scripture reading. And sure enough, when the time came for me to read Scripture, most everyone was looking at their phones, reading along.

And there it was, the people of God reading the word of God. Thanks be to God!! Amen. Blessings, *Dr. Brad*

## Piano Concert Series

**Travis McFarlane**, our 8:30 Worship Musician, will play in the Blind Boone Piano Concert Series, released on August 20, at 5pm. \$10 gives families electronic access at any time to watch Travis play on YouTube and supports a great cause! To buy tickets and learn more, visit [www.boonehistory.org/eventtype/concert-series/](http://www.boonehistory.org/eventtype/concert-series/).

## News of the People...

### Prayers...

**Jim Silvey** died peacefully on Aug. 12, at Boone Hospital, recovering from hip surgery. Prayers for his wife, Billie and daughter Sheryl. Services were held last Saturday at Memorial Funeral Home & Cemetery. **Tom Hughey** underwent eye surgery and is home recovering. We keep **Cliff & Mary Tompson's** daughter Beth in our prayers as she fights cancer. **Joy Overacre** is at Rusk Rehab, recovering from a stroke.



### Births in the Church Family!

Lillian Schaefer is excited to announce the arrival of her little brother, Teller Crowe (pictured at right). He arrived on Aug. 13, at 4:14pm - 8lbs, 8oz, 22.5". Congratulations to parents Scott and Shannon! All are happy and healthy.



"Janet and I are proud to announce the arrival of our granddaughter Reese Ellen Weisenborn (pictured at left). Reese was born 6-14-2020, at 6:14pm. She weighed 7lbs, 1oz. and is 19" long. Our daughter Michelle Weisenborn and her husband, Duston Weisenborn are the proud parents." --**Mike Mountjoy**



## Notes of THANKS

Dear First Christian Church Family,

I am beyond thankful for the scholarship I received as I pursue my goals in college. I appreciate knowing my church family continues to support me throughout college through both scholarships and my participation in Disciples on Campus. Many thanks, **Hunter Rogers**

I am honored to be the recipient of the Marvin and Marceline Shamberger Education Scholarship and the Raymond E. and Helen I. Miller Scholarship. First Christian Church has always been a large part of my life and continues to support and shape me through my participation in the DOC while at Mizzou. I plan on using the generous gift on college expenses while pursuing my degree. I am very grateful for your support. -- **Wyatt Rogers**

For all the prayers, calls and cards that were sent to me, a mere "Thank You," doesn't begin to cover it! But, THANK YOU. I feel surrounded by love-the greatest gift given. And it is returned by me and my family tenfold. Blessings, **Colleen Nilges**

And these words are from my brother: "I would like to express your kindness in praying for me. Although I didn't attend church in your building more than a few times, I still felt a part of your church! Your prayers were felt and gave me comfort. And thank you for taking care of my sister. May God bless you." -- **Dennis Laferty**

*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—any beverage and cracker will do! Be in the spirit of the Holy!*

## HOME WORSHIP for AUGUST 23

### WORD and PRAISE

#### WELCOME GOD.

Our help is in the name of the Lord; **We belong to God.**  
When we feel overwhelmed, **God is on our side.**  
When we are afraid, **God will keep us safe.**  
Our help is in the name of the Lord; **Blessed be the Lord!**

#### PRAYER.

Loving God, open our hearts to one another. Give us courage to resist oppression. Help us protect the world from evil. Give us wisdom to see ourselves as we truly are. Help us discern your will and call. Grant us endurance to use our gifts for the purpose of your realm. Work your transforming love within us that we serve you and others with joy. Amen

**READ SCRIPTURE.** Psalm 124 | Romans 12:1-8

### Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

*Let us talents and tongues employ. Reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.*

**REFRAIN: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

*Christ is able to make us one. At the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.*

#### REFRAIN

*Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!*

#### REFRAIN

By Fred Kaan, 1975. Tune: Doreen Potter, 1975, adapt. Chalice Hymnal # 422

#### MEDITATION.

Psalm 124 reminded ancient Hebrew pilgrims marching up the stairs to the Temple of Jerusalem of God's saving acts during the Exodus out of Egypt while crossing the Red Sea and God's deliverance following the Babylonian Exile. The Psalm captures the relief felt by those delivered by God's salvation – "escaped like a bird from a trapper's snare." Through the deliverance of the Exodus and the Exile, the Hebrew people grew in faith as their awareness that their help comes, not by their own hands, but their help comes from the LORD!

As their individual faith and reliance on God's grace and salvation grew, so too did their identity and solidarity as a people of God grow. Their collective identity was reinforced as "the people of God," whom God watched over and protected.

The early followers of Jesus also formed into a community of faith, a people of God saved by Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Discovering not only their personal salvation and redemption, the early Church blossomed into a community set apart as one body with differing gifts. Expressing these gifts on a daily basis, Paul in Romans 12 says, is the faithful Christian's "living sacrifice," which is "holy and acceptable to God."

During these days of COVID-19, how do you express your relief for God's deliverance and salvation? How might you be "a living sacrifice" for God? How might you use your individual gifts for the one body of Christ? Yes, these are challenging times. Retooling ourselves to use our gifts for gospel requires thought, creativity, imagination, and, yes, even experimentation. In the trial and error of exploration, we will find what works and what doesn't. Just ask the videography team how many failures they've experienced during the recording of worship! Let their perseverance and God's continual deliverance inspire each of us to minister to another with joy, grace, and enthusiasm! Amen. (– Dr. Stagg)

### PRAYER and 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.** Peace be with you! Speak the truth of God. Live with new life. Be filled with the Holy Spirit! Amen.



**The Visitor**  
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 Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister  
 jimmy@firstchristian.org

**Music Staff:**

Michael Sauer, Director of Music Ministry, Chancel Choir, Bells  
 michael@firstchristian.org  
 Travis McFarlane, Early Worship Service Musician  
 Dr. Rochelle Parker, Organist

**Mother's Day Out Pre-School:**

Tracy Westhoff, Director  
 tracy@firstchristian.org

**Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry:**

Rev. Sally Robinson, Chaplain  
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**Support Staff:**

Laura Shirey, Office Manager  
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 Fred Mottaz, Business Manager  
 fred@firstchristian.org  
 Keith Picker, Custodian

**Return Service Requested**



**Aug. 23** – Janelle Patterson  
**Aug. 24** – Denice Adkins, Paula Slusher  
**Aug. 25** – Amelia Leon-Rudy, Roy Overacre  
**Aug. 26** – Mary Daugherty  
**Aug. 27** – Steve McCormack  
**Aug. 28** – Elizabeth Nelms  
**Aug. 29** – Ryan Hunsaker

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Weekly Bible Study and Fellowship**  
*Have you joined yet?* 

Online gatherings continue for study and fellowship each week via Zoom video conferencing or by calling in via phone. If you would like to join any of the gatherings, please call or email Jimmy Spear to be connected. Join us!

**FELLOWSHIP & LEARNING:**  
**Mid-week Connect with Rev. Spear:** *None 8/12, 8/19*  
**Bible Study with Dr. Stagg:** *Wednesdays at Noon*  
**STUDENT MINISTRY: Chi-Rho and CYF:** *On pause for summer break. Email/GroupMe texts will offer updates.*  
**Departments, committees, and Cabinet meetings are all held on Zoom.**