



the VISITOR

January 22, 2021
Vol. 79, No. 113

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

Happening Soon

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

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27

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

SUNDAY, JAN 31

- Coffee Hour, 9:30am, Zoom
- Virtual Worship, YouTube
- JYF, 12:00, Yonker Hall
- CYF, 5pm, Yonker Hall

Happy Birthday!

Jan. 24 Marion Storm

Jan. 26 Glenda Clark, Samuel Creasy,
Kara Zimmer

Jan. 28 Jim Baumgartner

Jan. 29 Bryan Freed, Cole Galbraith,
Cooper Mast, Anita Dresser (93!)

Jan. 30 Ronny Sheppard, Debbie Taylor



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

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 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 9:30am.

The Columbia Values Diversity Celebration

Virtual Experience available beginning Monday, January 18, 2021

The 2021 Columbia Values Diversity Celebration will be a free, virtual experience for all in our community! Go online to www.comodiversitycelebration.com on January 18, for speaker videos, announced diversity award winners, discussion guides, and resources. The 2021 theme is "Where We Stand," taken from the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: *"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."* The Columbia Values Diversity Celebration is a time to recognize the many ways diversity improves our community and reflect on ways to embrace diversity every day.

How to participate:

- Anytime after January 18, go to the online site to watch the videos and encourage your networks and groups to do the same.
- Meet up virtually with your social, professional, or educational communities and use the discussion guide to start a conversation about inclusion in your communities.
- Browse the resources provided online to continue celebrating diversity and learning throughout 2021.

www.comodiversitycelebration.com



Renewal is Ongoing

2021. Inaugurations. MLK remembrance. Vaccine.

There is renewal all around us. Some would say these are beginnings. Yes. Both. When it comes to the Spirit of God in our midst, there can be renewal found in beginning and a beginning found in renewal.

I took two days and three nights this past week to be on retreat. Clergy retreat is key for keeping the renewal up to date. I missed two continuing education/retreat opportunities in 2020 due to the pandemic. The need for them did not get canceled by the — *cont. on pg. 2*

3RD SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY, JANUARY 24

Leaving Our Nets
Mark 1:14-20

DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

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.



News of the People

Sympathy

We express our sympathy to Carol and Craig, daughter and son of the late Norma Miller, whose father Will Miller died on January 1.

Prayers

Kim Leon's husband, Ken McRae has been dealing with the after-effects of COVID-19 including pneumonia and a recent hospital stay. **Shannon Schaefer's step-father, Dean Bennet** is back home hoping to gain weight and strength after a recent hospital stay.

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. The plan will be assessed 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.

Renewal is Ongoing *cont. from pg. 1*

pandemic, but enhanced. What did I do? I removed myself from my home, from the church building. I did not go to Louisiana. I went to the Lake of the Ozarks, and with a long-time ministry colleague, had time away. Time away allows for conversation to be different. With myself, others, and with God. Hiking to find quiet lakeside places allowed for prayers I had been holding back on. Time with a trusted colleague in ministry allowed for serious back and forth about ministry— the exchange and accountability of ideas, woes, learnings, and perspectives. Not being in a usual place—even home or the river house meant no family, chores, or typical diversions.

I am lucky that my job expects me to retreat. To go away and renew that I might do better what I do among us. I am glad that my schedule is unique enough to allow time away and yet get the work of the church done. I know that many do not have this luxury. But I wonder, could there yet be a way for anyone to find space for a renewed spirit? Where is the renewal for you? Is there a place and time that is removed from all other things that are "usual" allowing rest and renewal of prayers, ideas, and the spirit.

Renewal also has to do with the past. What needs renewing in us — a return to something good or whole. 2020 was a most difficult year. There is great need for renewal of spirit, connection, and the holy found within us after such a year. Elections, social justice movements and anything pandemic all called for us to renew differently in the time to come. That time is now. It is not later. It is not this summer. It isn't when things are "normal" again. Such a call to renewal means we seek it out and identify what our plans are, who will we talk with and what about. It means we establish goals for our days given what life is bringing to us right now. How about these suggestions:

- Commit to not letting the social movements of last summer escape our memory or interest for change.
- Keep social media in check—how much time is spent on social media and for what purpose and outcome?
- Hear again the message of Dr. M.L. King Jr. in today's political and justice context— what do his words say to the events in recent weeks?
- Sunday mornings: Is time watching/reading/checking in for worship still a weekly priority? What about adding coffee hour or study?

Talk to me. How can I help? Next week I will announce an upcoming Saturday morning online retreat created just for FCC Columbia folks. Stay tuned.

"Be well" in this new year means more than health. Keep that spirit renewed, seek help, and know that in all things God loves you.

Rev. Jimmy Spear

Friday Night Classics!

3rd 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!



YOUTH GROUPS

As COVID conditions change our plans, parents will continue to get an email prior to any youth gatherings. Here is the current schedule: *Sundays for one hour. Fellowship Hall. Masks. Distance. Temps Taken. Alternating weeks to let the air space settle.*



Chi-Rho & CYF meet in-person 2X a month at 5:00pm:

Jan 24: Chi-Rho

Jan 31: CYF

Feb 7: Chi-Rho (due to super bowl) **change to 12:00 w/pizza**

Feb 14: CYF (MOVIE in Cinema) 5-7pm

Feb 21: Chi-Rho (MOVIE in Cinema) 5-7pm

Feb 28: CYF

The CYF will receive news and plans via its GroupMe text.

JYF (grades 3-5): January 31 at 12:00pm w/ Pizza lunch

DOC

COLLEGE GROUP

Regular gatherings will "re-Zoom" on January 19, 7:30pm, following the school term winter break.

Home Worship for January 24

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 on Psalm 62)*

The God of all creation calls us.
*We come, knowing that our deliverance
and honor rest in God.*

Power and steadfast love belong to God.
We come to sing and pray, read and give thanks, celebrating the presence of this mighty, loving God.

Holy One, God of all Creation, you call us to be your people, to carry your vision in this time and place, to go where you send us to help welcome your amazing good news. As we gather in our homes, we are thankful to be in the presence of the risen Christ and encouraged by his love. May we spread the news that your realm is near, continue to be filled with your Holy Spirit, and know of your creative power, O God of all Creation. We may be home-centered these days, but we can be connected with the world. Let us carry your light still into the darkness and lead others to better days and brighter living. Amen.

LIGHT.

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

*Fairest Lord Jesus,
ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down;
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry hosts:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.*

By Munster Gesangbuch (1677) Tune: ST. ELIZABETH
Chalice Hymnal #97

READ SCRIPTURE. Psalm 62:5-12

MEDITATION. *God alone.*

Self-sufficiency is a big deal. We strive everyday to be able to take care of ourselves. We raise our kids so they can take care of themselves. We judge others when they cannot take care of their own affairs. We alone should be able to live and succeed. Enter into this dynamic of human life, our faith.

Psalm 62 tells us of another way. The writer reminds us that in our faith lies a belief in a creator that sustains us and partners with us for the livelihood of our spirit and body. There is a difference between “going it alone” and believing in “God alone.” “Alone” is not about the singular nature of our being, but instead the “only” of our human nature. Our souls connect only to God. Only in God does our hope reside. Only God is called our rock, salvation, and refuge. Only God can deliver us from sin and selfishness. It is only because of God that we will not be shaken by this world. In God our trust lies—only. At all times.

There is much faith found in giving God “only” status. It is not for everyone. Some will never be able to fully give such a part of themselves to God. There is much asked of us in trusting, waiting, keeping God — alone.

We might wonder these days about the feelings of Dr. M. L. King Jr. when he was faced with uncertain times, perilous journeys, and hate-filled mobs. We might wonder if he prayed the Psalms that spoke of “God alone delivering the people.” As we continue to live in times where hate filled mobs and divisive rhetoric seem to be the norm, we wonder if God alone can make a difference. What we also must wonder about is the ability and possibility of God to bring balance and honor to those who call upon God alone. In God, we find a steadfast love beyond all our singular mind’s comprehension. In God, we are invited to the beyond — go beyond this world and rest in the peace that is in God alone. There — justice and peace abound. 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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First Christian Church

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

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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. **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 _____