



September 25, 2020
Vol. 77, No. 99

THE

VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

Mid-America Regional Assembly

Online-Virtual Gathering, Oct. 3

The Christian Church in Mid-America invites all congregations to tune in on Oct. 3, for its Regional Assembly.

All are welcome to our online Regional Assembly at 9:00am, and **no registration is required to attend**. Follow along on the Facebook page "Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America" (you don't need to have a Facebook account) for a 90-minute live gathering that will include worship, music, reports from our ministry partners, our business session, and more! The docket, including reports and other info., will be posted prior to the Assembly. FCC members **Gene Rogers and Brice Moeller** will be our voting delegates.

Rev. Jimmy Spear, currently the Moderator of the Regional Board, will preside over the Assembly broadcast. Watching-attending is a great way to know more about our denominational connection of church. Make plans now to tune in for Oct. 3rd's online assembly.

ONLY VOTERS NEED TO REGISTER. Find any and all information about this year's virtual Assembly please visit: www.mid-america-disciples.org/regional-assembly-2020.



Worship: 2 Ways

Sunday, Sep. 27



Exodus 17:1-7

"Living with old Massah & Meribah"

Message by Rev. Jimmy Spear

WORSHIP WITH US IN TWO WAYS:

AT HOME, ONLINE: On our YouTube Channel
"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"

OR

AT HOME LITURGY: provided on page 2.

AT CHURCH: *update

Worship in the Sanctuary is suspended for Sep. 27 due to current community health conditions.

Worship will return to the sanctuary on Oct. 4.



Friday Night Classics!

3rd Flr Cinema/Fellow.Hall
Friday, Oct. 9 - 7:00pm

Fresh popcorn served and 50¢
soda available in Yonker Hall.

RSVP required to ensure safe
spacing—email or call church

6 Months In, Stay Close

Perhaps we are upon the next challenge

New ways to connect and be present are all around us these days. We are able to be as close as the screen in front of us. We sometimes call it "digital" or "virtual" as we "stream" the broadcasts of Sunday mornings and group meetings through the air/across the internet.

VIRTUAL: Existing or resulting in essence or effect though not in actual fact, form, or name; not physically existing as such but made by software to appear to do so. Wait, it isn't real? Well, not when it comes to church. —Cont. on Pg. 3



www.firstchristian.org
Instagram: @firstchristian.como
www.facebook.com/FirstChristianColumbiaMO



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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 SEPTEMBER 27

WORD and PRAISE

WELCOME GOD IN PRAYER.

Speak to us, Lord, through the scriptures and prayer.

Remind us again of your everlasting power.

May we know your story and our place within it.

May we remember your mighty works and deeds,
that we might know that you are the God of all ages.

May we claim your promise and share your love.

We are listening, Lord; speak to us today. Amen.

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God

*We sing your mighty power, O God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.*

*We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at your command,
and all the stars obey.*

*We sing your goodness, sovereign God,
who filled the earth with food;
you formed the creatures with your word,
and then pronounced them good.*

*Oh! how your wonders are displayed
where'er we turn our eyes,*

if we survey the ground we tread, or gaze upon the skies.

*There's not a plant or flower below
but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from your throne.*

*While all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care, and everywhere that we can be,
you, God, are present there.*

By Isaac Watts, 1715 Tune: ELLACOMBE
Chalice Hymnal # 64

READ SCRIPTURE. Exodus 17:1-7

MEDITATION.

Okay, out with it. What is your quarrel with God? What is your trial by God? What is your strife with God? Where is your temptation away from God? Sometimes, we just need a loud confession. A sigh of relief when we can get all our angst and pain, our want and hurt off our chest. Today's text from Exodus finds the now free-wandering Israelites not happy with their situation. There is thirst for water. They are weary. It

seems to them that God (and Moses) have led them into a freedom that is not free of pain and need. They are regretting their liberation from Egypt.

As we finish our sixth month of coronavirus life, our complaints are getting louder. Just when we thought it would be okay, it gets worse. This different life takes a lot more energy and soul to maintain. We find ourselves crying out like we have never done before. We are pleading for the basic things now — like the Israelites and their need for water — we just want safe passage anywhere, school and business to be open in our town. Oh how it brings out our quarreling side, our impatient side, our giving in to temptation. Lord, how long?

When Moses shared the woe of the Israelites he again shared it with God. It was then that God heard, acted, and made a way to water. Were all their needs met and problems gone? No, but they were given the thing they needed to keep going. Sometimes we wonder when we are this far into a wilderness if we have been forgotten by God. The stories of faith recall the acts of God for the people of God when they need them most. That is our hope and prayer. Amen. (-js)

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. Go forth with humble hearts, ready to serve your neighbor and a world in need. Lead us, O God. Amen.



News of the People...

Prayers...

Billie Silvey is working hard on physical therapy each day as she continues to be a patient at Boone Hospital. Nannie Lou Mallett has completed her radiation treatment for skin cancer on her foot & ankle. Bryan Garton's father, Robert Garton, had successful open-heart surgery and is now to start rehabilitation. Our MDO/Preschool Director, Tracy Westoff, continues in isolation recovering from COVID-19. MDO and the church has been closed. FCC office staff, Fred Mottaz and Brad Stagg are quarantined at home after exposure to COVID-19 via the preschool. The office and MDO pre-school are set to reopen Sept. 28.

Gratitude...

Dear Friends at First Christian Church:
I am writing to say thank you for all of the prayers, cards, and calls that I have received for the passing of my dear husband, Richard. We were blessed to have over 60 years together and almost 20 of those with the good people here at First Christian. I am sure that there are few church families that are so loving and caring as ours here. After the very first time we visited here, back in 2002, Dick said, "This is it. This is the church for us." We have felt loved and supported since that day. Thank you so much.

In Christian Love, *Sue Underwood*

Sep. 27 – Becky Beary **Sep. 29** – Keller Martin
Sep. 30 – Azure Stevens **Oct. 1** – Jake Nichols



Weekly Fellowship and Bible Study

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 the church office to be connected. Join us!

FELLOWSHIP & LEARNING:

Mid-Week Connect with Rev. Spear

(devotion, fellowship): *Wednesdays at 10:30am*

Bible Study with Dr. Stagg: *Wednesdays at Noon*

Parent's Folly: *Next one on October 15 at 7:30pm*

Election Day Homemade Pies

Fundraiser of the Disciples Women Fellowship of FCC

10-inch pie - \$20/each



3 WAYS TO ORDER:

-Email order to fcc@firstchristian.org

Order it electronically by using form found at:

<http://firstchristian.org/2020/election-day-pies/>

-Mail form below to 101 N. 10th, Columbia, MO 65201

-Fax this form to 573-875-8673

Orders must be received by Friday, Oct. 30.

Pie Pick Up on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Election Day Pie Order Form

NUMBER OF PIES	VARIETY
_____	APPLE
_____	SUGAR-FREE APPLE
_____	PEACH
_____	CHERRY
_____	BLACKBERRY
_____	BLUEBERRY
_____	STRAWBERRY RHUBARB
_____	MIXED BERRY WALNUT
Total	@ \$20 per pie = \$ _____
Name:	_____
Phone Number:	_____
Pick Up Time:	_____

6 Months In... *Cont. from Pg 1.*

Just because it's virtual doesn't mean it is not real. The face on the screen and the prayer shared apart is as real as in the next pew. We sit by the side of another who is watching from home. We recall a face and story and then spend our days doing our best to connect with those persons, partner disciples. Why? To keep it going. To keep it all going. We must.

Therein lies our challenge—to keep it going. The challenge is now and *still* to be together. The virtual is only as good as the one watching/participating in you and me.

How has your attendance been in these recent Sunday's apart? Keep at it, my friends. Our 45 minutes together is pretty easy to access and also to put off till tomorrow. Choose easy access. As October arrives, grab ahold of Sunday again and snag a new commitment to our virtual gathering space. It will make all the difference in navigating these weeks apart. I know I look forward to "seeing" you Sunday and starting the week together.

—Rev. Jimmy Spear



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Michael Sauer, Director of Music Ministry, Chancel Choir, Bells
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Mother's Day Out Pre-School:

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Rev. Sally Robinson, Chaplain
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Support Staff:

Laura Shirey, Office Manager
 laura@firstchristian.org
 Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
 fred@firstchristian.org

Return Service Requested



Backpacks Shared

Supplies for more than 10 Backpacks of Love were donated by FCC folks in a recent outreach focus for Festival of Sharing. Pictured is Sally Robinson with the collected backpacks. Thanks to all who took on this effort of care for children!



-Mission Outreach Dept.

YOUTH GROUP!

Sunday Sep. 27:

Chi-Rho & CYF

4:00-5:00pm

JYF & Chi-Rho alternating weeks

JYF (grds. 3,4,5)

Oct. 4, 18, (Nov. 8, 25)

CHI-RHO (grds. 6,7,8) Sep. 27, Oct.

11, 18, (Nov. 1, 15)

5:00-6:00pm —CYF (grades 9-12)

every week

THIS WEEK: CARDINES!

Chi-Rho and CYF parents will received all instructions by email. CYF also will get news via GroupMe.

DOC College Group:

Tuesdays, 7:30pm (location in GroupME)

Sunday Lunch — October 27 at 12:00

Peace Park

SEED impressions

Create autumn-themed artwork using items from plants.




What you need:

- Seed pods, nuts, pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Go on a nature walk and collect seeds with interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. On a table, knead the dough. (If too dry, add more water; if too sticky, add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough and stamp impressions in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several hours at 150 degrees until dry and hard. Or, to reuse dough, store in an airtight container up to 6 months.



HELP
FCC Mission Outreach Day @
Columbia's
Habitat Build
Saturday, Oct. 31