



## the VISITOR

February 26, 2021  
Vol. 79, No. 118

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

### Happening Soon

#### FRIDAY, FEB. 26

- Friday Night Classic, 7:00pm, Cinema

#### SUNDAY, FEB. 28

- On-Site Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Coffee Hour, 11:00am, Zoom
- JYF Pizza Lunch, 12-1:15pm, YFH
- CYF, 5pm, YFH

#### TUESDAY, MAR. 2

- DOC College Group, 7:30pm, YFH

#### WEDNESDAY, MAR. 3

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

### Happy Birthday!

- Feb. 28 Jack Creasy
- Feb. 29 Eliana Snyder
- Mar. 1 Ben Creasy
- Mar. 3 Sue Haynes
- Mar. 4 Sharon Ronchetto
- Mar. 5 Brice Moeller, Kohns Volmert



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

*Nobody hungry,  
nobody thirsty,  
shade from the sun,  
shelter from the wind,  
For the Compassionate  
One guides them,  
takes them to the  
best springs.*

~ Isaiah 49:10  
(The Message)

# Week of Compassion

Clean drinkable water — disaster relief of every kind — education and empowerment — care. Around the world, around the year, our gifts extend the love of God to all in need when we are generous to the Week of Compassion. Such generosity reminds our God we know something about hope and belief in **letting love flow**.

Let love flow.



FEBRUARY 21-28



Plan your special offering today - mail to the church, bring to church the next two Sundays, or give online at [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)

## RECLAIMING GOD'S COVENANTS

Worship for Sunday, February 28

“A Promise to Abraham” - Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16

Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching

Hymns of the day: *Ours the Journey; Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

### WORSHIP: 3 WAYS

**AT-HOME ONLINE:** Watch the recording of the live service—available late on Sunday via the email/YouTube channel.

“*First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)*”

**AT-HOME LITURGY:** Provided on page 3.

#### IN-PERSON AT CHURCH

On-site, in-person worship has resumed at  
**9:30am** in the sanctuary.

More information is found on page 2.  
An **RSVP** is needed for all attending.



SECOND SUNDAY  
*in*  
LENT

# BINGO!

March 14  
4:00pm  
Yonker Hall



The Fellowship Department will be hosting monthly gatherings—masked/social distanced—starting in March. The first is BINGO, trivia in April, and BINGO again in May. These gatherings will be small based upon current COVID city restrictions for gathered groups.

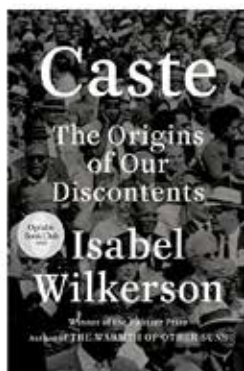
Current space is for **22 people** with a waiting list.

RSVP now to the church office by phone or email. First preference to the waiting list for the next month's game event.

## Community Book Study by Race Forward

*Caste, begins March 4*

The Race Forward group is coordinating a study of the book, "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents," by Isabel Wilkerson. The book compares racism in the United States to the Caste system in India and explores the way the racist strategies were used by Hitler and the Third Reich in Germany.



A kickoff for this book study is planned for March 4, on Zoom. Groups are forming and most will start in March. Most groups will meet via Zoom. A syllabus is available. In addition to the various book study groups, Zoom sessions with guest speakers addressing issues in the book will be

available. It is suggested that groups consider an eight-session study, but groups will be flexible. The first Zoom session is March 4, with guest speaker Dr. Brad Nichols from the MU History Department, whose research focuses on "Caste systems."

We know one study group will meet on Monday evenings starting in early March and one group will meet on Thursday evenings starting on March 4. Both of these groups will meet on Zoom. To find out more and join one of the forming groups, please contact Don Day (member at Broadway Christian Church) at [dday@centurytel.net](mailto:dday@centurytel.net) or 573-819-7779. Rev. Sally Robinson will be connecting to this group, also.

## News of the People

Prayers this week for **Cindy Smith**, recovering at home from a full knee replacement; **Natalie Barnard's** mother **Mary Bowyer**, a recent fall and surgery. **Elizabeth Hensley** will turn 100 on Saturday, Feb. 27. Last week's Visitor or the office can provide her address.

## Worship In-person at Church:

Information for this Sunday, February 28

- **9:30am** in the Sanctuary
- Masks will be required at all times. Sanitizer and masks are available.
- If possible, enter and exit through the bell tower's narthex door. The elevator is available if needed from Yonker Fellowship Hall entrances.
- Seating is throughout the sanctuary in keeping with social-distancing – six feet apart in a pew, alternating middle and sides of pews.
- For those 65+: please use caution and consult your healthcare providers before deciding if you can/should attend.
- Nursery care is currently not offered at this time.
- Registering: **RSVP** now for the coming Sunday. Call or email the church office 449.4265, [fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)
- You will be asked to check-in upon arrival, confirming your RSVP or register at that moment (for contact tracing purposes, if needed)
- By registering, you confirm that all attendees are/have:
  - fever-free
  - not experiencing COVID symptoms (fever, shortness of breath, new loss of taste/smell, etc.)
  - have not been asked by health authorities to quarantine in the last 14 days
  - not positive for COVID or awaiting results of a COVID test.
- A bulletin with words & hymns provided.
- Individual communion will be provided.

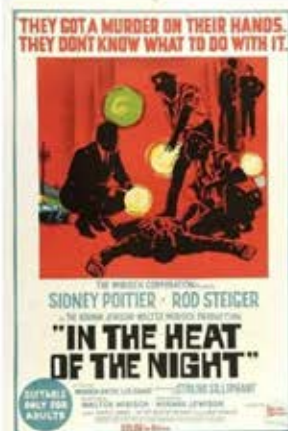
## Friday Night Classics!

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Cinema

Friday, Feb 26, 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!



# Home Worship for February 28

*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 IN PRAYER.

Let us turn our minds from human things.

*Our faith in Jesus saves us.*

Let us set our minds on divine things.

*Our faith in Jesus saves us.*

We will deny ourselves and take up our cross.

*Our faith in Jesus saves us.*

We will lose all; that we may gain all.

*Our faith in Jesus saves us.*

All honor and glory to you, O God, your mercy knows no limit, and your love knows no depth. You hold out your hand and the afflicted are healed, and the poor are fed. Your benevolence is steadfast, and your promise is sure from generation to generation. Journey with us this Lent and hear our confession, know our praise. Amen.

**READ SCRIPTURE.** Mark 8:31-38

### Softly and Tenderly

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me;*

*patient and loving, he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.*

*Refrain: Come home, (Come home,  
come home, (come home,)*

*ye who are weary, come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"*

*Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?*

*Why should we wait, then, and  
heed not his mercies,*

*mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]*

*O for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me;*

*tho' we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]*

By Will L. Thompson

Tune: THOMPSON Chalice Hymnal #339

**MEDITATION.** Take up the following.

*"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."*

The Lenten journey continues to invite us to "take up" things for Jesus, for God. While the practice of adding spiritual disciplines to our daily life is not one only reserved for Lent, we are more aware in this season of the need.

Today, we have heard of disciples invited to take up following. Following Jesus. Following Jesus' words, actions, motivations, and ways. The gospel story reminds the listening disciples of the future that awaits Jesus — suffering, death, and resurrection. The disciples don't believe such could be the case, but they do want to follow Jesus. He hears them and invites them into a type of following: the denial of self. [Enter Lenten theme music here.]

Deny self and take up a cross — the thing that is dark and deathly, the very things that are difficult — take them up and follow Jesus. He implores them to know that the following with a difficult cross of life in hand is not easy. It is not something done lightly. There is faith involved and a willingness to lose.

The faith involved for us taking up a cross and following Jesus is knowing we will gain eternal life, true life, and a loving life, if we can commit to losing other parts of life that were not producing goodness in God. The loss of "worldly" life, and any darkness or sin because we believe in Jesus, is the very thing he says will bring us life. The life we gain with each day of turning toward Jesus, cross in hand, will be the life saved. Our following of Jesus can be taken up as a practice in these days allowing us to better understand ourselves and our God. Amen.

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## 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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Columbia, MO 65201  
573-449-7265  
email: [fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)  
web: [firstchristian.org](http://firstchristian.org)

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](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  
Dr. Kim Leon, Assistant Director

### Support Staff

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

## Sunday Coffee Hour

*NEW TIME: SUNDAY at 11:00am*  
*Zoom or Phone*

Join the growing group gathering on Sunday for *virtual coffee hour*. Bring your coffee, get your toast ready, and jump online to visit with other folks.

\*This new 11am time allows for 9:30 in-person worship.

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 11:00am.



## DOC COLLEGE GROUP

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

## YOUTH GROUPS

*Sundays -- one hour.*  
*Fellowship Hall.*  
*Masks.*  
*Distance.*  
*Temps Taken.*  
*Alternating weeks to let the air space settle.*



### JYF (grades 3, 4, 5):

Sunday, Feb. 28: 12:00-1:15pm and will include pizza lunch.

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

Feb 28: CYF  
Mar 7: Chi-Rho  
Mar 14: CYF (earlier in the day)  
Mar 21: Chi-Rho

**Parents** will need to keep track of this JYF & Chi-Rho schedule. CYF and Chi-Rho will get GroupMe notifications.