



THE
August 28, 2020
Vol. 77, No. 95

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) VISITOR

Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

Worship: 3 Ways

Sunday, August 30
at home or at church

Matthew 16: 21-28
"Self-Denial"

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

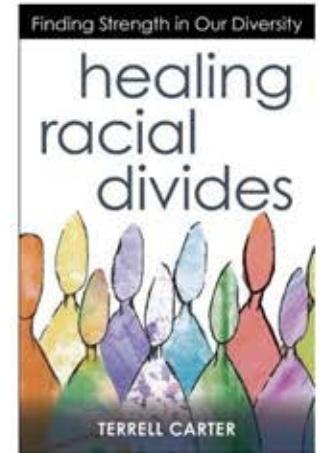
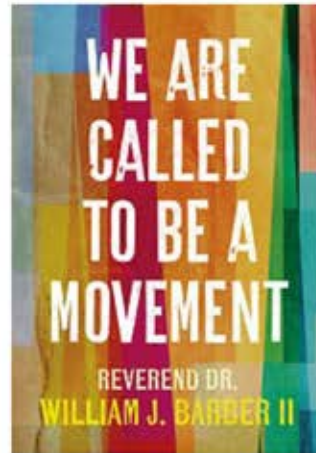
AT HOME LITURGY:

provided on page 2.

OR

AT CHURCH:

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



Join a Critical Reading Group!

Two New Books to order, read and discuss together

"Why should we read these books now?"

Because we should have years ago;

Because the current needs of our community implore us.

Pick either or both books.

- Order yourself for home delivery from cokesbury.com or from your own book source.
- Place an order with the church office.
Email fcc@firstchristian.org or call the office.
- Sign up—email or call Jimmy Spear to join the discussion.
- Read the book over five weeks and join a weekly Zoom conversation led by Rev. Jimmy Spear and other leaders. (There will be separate discussions for each book.)
- Book reading/Zoom discussions: The two books, "We Are Called to Be a Movement" by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, and "Healing Racial Divides" by Terrell Carer, will be discussed in September and October.

In this time, I am called to share in the holy work of learning with you. These books are well recommended for use in the church setting. Each brings a different approach to the topic of race and faith. Will you take time this summer and learn about yourself, your community, humanity, and God? Do you hear the call to participate in some critical learning? Join me. Please let me or the Office staff know if you're interested, we'd be happy to have you in these important conversations. -- Jimmy Spear



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 30

WORD and PRAISE

WELCOME GOD.

God calls us from a burning bush.

We are standing on holy ground!

The Spirit calls us to proclaim God's name
to all generations.

We are standing on holy ground!

Jesus calls us from the cross: come and follow me.

We are standing on holy ground!

PRAYER.

In the flaming bush, you promised deliverance to your people, O God, and in the cross of Jesus, you embraced our suffering and pain. In times of misery, show us the transforming power of your love that we may know the hope of your glory. Amen.

READ SCRIPTURE. Exodus 3:1-15 | Romans 12:9-21

Come and Find a Quiet Center

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within out thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

By Shirley Erena Murray, 1989. Tune: Trad. American melody
Chalice Hymnal # 575

MEDITATION.

Where is holy ground for you? Church camp, a sanctuary, Loaves & Fishes, a particular spot in the woods, along a creek, by the seashore? Perhaps, holding the hand of another? For some, holy ground is found in music; for others, reading Scripture; still others, it is found deep in meditation and prayer. Where is holy ground for you?

For Moses -- a runaway, excuse-making, murderer, holy ground is found on a deserted mountaintop in a burning bush. Granted, God

spoke directly to him from the bush, but that doesn't mean God isn't speaking to you. Perhaps not aloud like Moses. Perhaps God speaks to you more like Elijah -- in a still small voice. However it is, whatever the form, God speaks to you. And whenever, wherever God speaks -- that is holy ground.

God spoke to Moses on Mt. Horeb. God speaks to us through Jesus when he teaches, "*Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.*" God speaks to the church through Paul when he wrote, "Let love be genuine, hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good... and overcome evil with good." God speaks. Along the way, most Christians have learned how to hear God speaking. Problems arise when we get stuck hearing God in certain ways, becoming overly dependent on our "tried and true" means. That's just when God changes things up.

The Hebrews believed God only spoke to them from a mountain or the Temple, such as when God sent them to wander through the Wilderness or into Exile. So too for us, it is there in the uncomfortable places, like the cross, where we hear God most clearly.

Today, we wander through the COVID-Exile. As we find new ways and places to hear God speak, let us trust that God will bring us a new holy ground! 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.



Bit from Brad

Keith Picker's Retirement

Our custodian of 12 years, Keith Picker has announced his retirement with his upcoming 65th birthday. Keith's last Sunday with us will be this Sunday, August 30. Due to COVID-19, we cannot have a traditional reception and send-off as we have had with other retiring staff in the past. As such, the Administrative Board has elected to grant Keith four weeks' vacation for the month of September, which Keith graciously and gratefully welcomed.

For years, Keith has set up and taken down chairs and tables, mowed the lawn, spread salt, shoveled snow & ice, cleaned our facilities, provided security, and opened and closed the building for countless worship services, weddings and funerals, for which we are grateful.



You may wish to contribute to a Love Offering for Keith, which will be collected through the church office, as a means of expressing your personal thanks. Simply send a check payable to First Christian Church and in the memo section write: "Keith Picker" and the church office will administer it from there.

Thank you, Keith, for your years of hard work and service to First Christian Church, Columbia, Mo.! God bless you as you begin this new chapter in your life! Fare thee well!

New Custodian Search Begins

With Keith's announcement, we are already in the process of searching for a new custodian. The Custodian's job description will be updated and posted on Indeed.com this week. It is our understanding that due to COVID-19, MU released many of their custodial staff, so we hope that our search for a new custodian will not take a long time. In the meantime, please keep this search in your prayers and if you should know anyone interested in the position, please refer them to our listing on Indeed.com.

Plexiglas Office Screens

Much thanks goes to Bob Hutton and Fred Mottaz for coordinating the installation of the three new Plexiglas Screens in the office. One sits on the main office counter providing protection between the office staff and those coming to do business with the church. A second screen separates the workspaces of Fred and Laura, our Business Manager and Office Manager, respectively. And the third screen is located in the backroom, dedicated for the counters, giving our volunteer counters an extra measure of protection.

May God continue to bless and keep you as we continue this new chapter in the life of FCC! Blessings, *Dr. Brad*



News of the People...

Prayers...

Tommy Tomlin is at Boone Hospital recovering from pacemaker surgery. **Tom Hughey** remains home recovering from eye surgery. We keep **Cliff & Mary Tompson's** daughter Beth in our prayers as she fights cancer. **Joy Overacre** is now home after being at Rusk Rehab following a stroke.

If you have a personal joy or concern, please let the office or one of the ministers know how we can pray for YOU!



Notes of THANKS

Dear FCC Family,

Thank you all for the continuous love and support in both my life and education. I know this has been a trying time for everyone, but I also know FCC has provided a place for love and prayer for each other; and we will be better for it!

I love each and every member of my FCC family, and thank you again for the support of my education. *Love, Julia Bower*

Dear First Christian Church,

Thank you for selecting me for my scholarship. This will really help in the next 4 years. The church has really helped me so much throughout my life and I am thankful to be a member at FCC.

Thank you, *Will Bower*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all very much for the college scholarship. I am so very lucky to be a part of a loving church family that supports my future and helps me to achieve my goals.

Thank you again. -- *Julia LaHue*

To the FCC Scholarship Selection Committee,

Thank you for selecting me to receive the Marvin and Marceline Shamberger Education Scholarship, and the Raymond E. and Helen I. Miller Scholarship. I will use this money to purchase my textbooks, course materials, and school supplies for the semester. I am eternally grateful for the church's continuing support throughout my college experience and honored to be the recipient of these scholarships. Sincerely, *Wolf Schaefer*

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS



Aug. 31 – Jessica Humble

Sep. 1 – Mary Ann Atteberry, Ortabel Stevens

Sep. 3 – Barbara Li

Sep. 4 – Noah Stagg, Mary Tompson



The Visitor
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 brad@firstchristian.org
 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

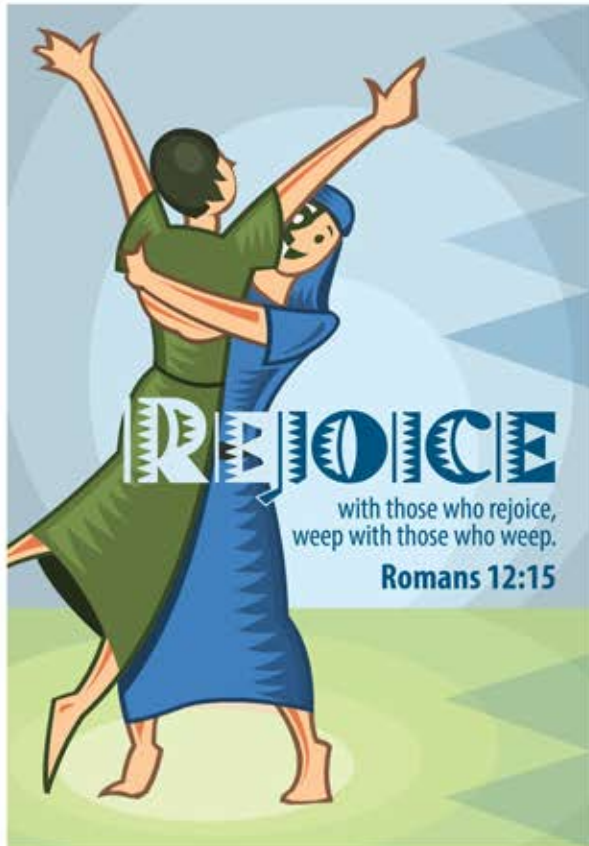
Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry:

Rev. Sally Robinson, Chaplain
 sallyarobinson16@gmail.com

Support Staff:

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

Return Service Requested



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: *Resumes Wed. 9/2*
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.

STAY TUNED!  Keep an eye out for details of the Fall Semester Student Ministry plan coming in next week's Visitor, as well as news of Christian Education. Stay tuned!