



the VISITOR

May 28, 2021
Vol. 78, No. 10

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

Happening Soon

SATURDAY, MAY 29

- Breakfast for Brethren, 7-9am, YFH

SUNDAY, MAY 30

- On-Site Worship Service, 9:30am

MONDAY, MAY 31

- Memorial Day - OFFICE CLOSED
- CYF Returns from Mission Trip

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

- Deadline for Visitor Submissions
- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, Noon, Bethany Hall
- Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

- Visitor Double-Issue Publication Day

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

- On-Site Worship Service, 9:30am
- O&A Bible Study, 5pm, Morris Parlor
- Chi-Rho Leaves on Mission Trip



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

1st Sunday After Pentecost MEMORIAL SUNDAY

MAY 30TH

"Who Will Go For Us?"

Isaiah 6:1-8

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching

Hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy!*

WORSHIP OPTIONS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 9:30AM:

In-person worship in the Sanctuary.

AT-HOME, ONLINE: *NOTE: THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICE WILL NOT BE RECORDED. The past year's services are all available to stream. Consider watching one of our past services, available via our YouTube and Facebook Page.

"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"

LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT-HOME:

Provided in this newsletter.

Thank You, Friends

It was one of the nicest days of my life. Truly. Sunday, I wore the same stole I received when I was ordained on a most unforgettable Pentecost some 21 years ago. This past Sunday matched that day as the Spirit was in our hearts, upon our tongues, and in our shared worship. How can I begin to list all the gratitude I have in my heart for Sunday and all the years? I hope we know each other well enough that when I say, "Thank you, dear friends," you understand the depth of my gratitude.

Everyone was in a bow tie! The cake, with what I believe was my blue Chevelle (oh yes, I could tell by the window and roof line) in front of the church, Barb's orchids, the choir's anthem, Travis, Rochelle, Carlot bringing the very best music, the little boxes of car and bow tie cookies, all the people in worship, the standing ovation, and Yonker Hall filled with images of our shared ministry. It was all so very perfect. The monetary gift — I just can't comprehend it. The two scrapbooks and box of letters, a witness to this place and time, will be close to my heart always.

Finally, the kids. When the big kids aged 12-28 all got up from their pews and came down for one more Children's Moment — I was so surprised! Some even traveled across the state for the day. That group: a perfect reminder of what it was all about in these years. God's people living and proclaiming the goodness of shared faith.

So very good. Thank you.
Love always, -- Jimmy Spear



Photos: Scott Schaefer

News of the People

Healing...

Tests reveal that Doris Neidhardt has MDS, Myelodysplastic Syndrome; while she feels fine, she and her daughters, Susan Woodbury and Jean Hall ask for your prayers. Fred Mottaz continues to be homebound as he recovers from last week's foot surgery.

Gratitude...

I want to thank Brad for the lovely visit we had last week. It was an enjoyable time and I love the beautiful flowers he brought.

-- Doris Neidhardt

Celebration Sunday Gratitude...

I cannot thank everyone enough for planning, guiding, and presenting the celebration for Jimmy on Sunday. It was a large group of helpers and I want to be sure I get everyone on the list so the church will know what a big joint project this was among so many. It shows the deep appreciation and affection we all hold for Jimmy and the 14 years he has spent with us.

Thanks to my core group of workers and "idea people": Scott & Shannon Schaefer, Jessica Humble, Vicki Johnson, Holly & Dan Gieseke, Eric Arnett, Amy Marrero, Brenda Mosby, Kim Rogers, Janelle Patterson, Carol Slusher, and Christy Von Talge. Each of the above assumed big jobs and were major contributors to the day.

Additional helpers who made the day run smoothly were Bob & Linda Hutton, Barb Rothenberger, Holly Wheatley, Stacia Schaffer, Maddie Marrero and Amy LaHue.

Brenda Mosby did a beautiful job with the scrapbooks of pictures and the box of letters. In addition, she was responsible for the making/decorating of cookies cut like bow ties and cars.

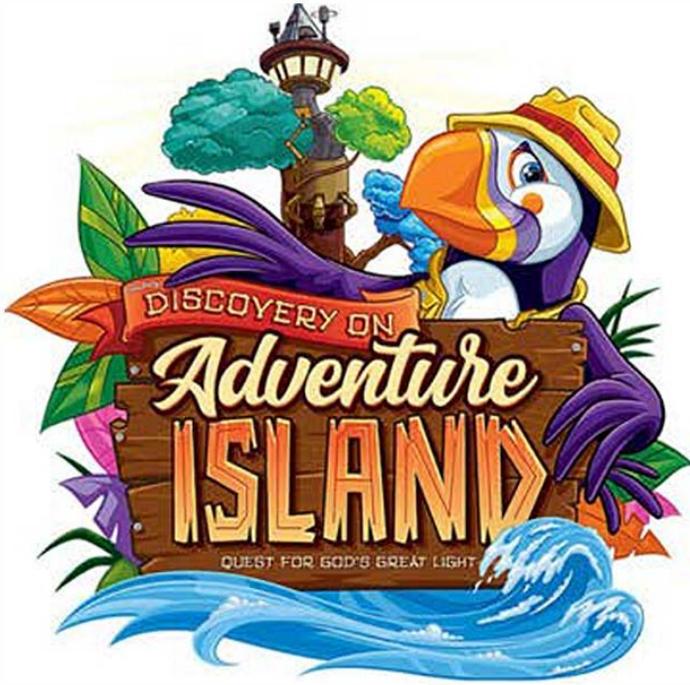
Barb Rothenberger made the orchid boutonniere from her own orchid plant. The most unique flowers came from her own orchids which she nurtures to bloom so beautifully.

A heartfelt thanks to all who helped make Sunday a special day for Jimmy and to Jimmy himself for being such a treasured part of First Christian, Columbia.

-- Genie Rogers, Celebration Committee Chair

Sympathy...

We have had word that former member Wilbur Shafer died, May 24, in Bella Vista, Ark. Prayers are extended to wife, Phyllis.



Vacation Bible School

Sun.-Thur., 5:30-8:00pm

June 20-24: Pre-K-5th

We can't wait for you to join us for Vacation Bible School this year! Get ready to have fun as we come together on a "Quest for God's Great Light"! See you soon.

Register online: FccColumbiaMO.MyCokesburyVBS.com



Questions? Contact Jessica Humble via email: humblejess@aol.com.

Bible Study for the Open & Affirming Process

Dr. Brad Stagg leads study on the important texts related to sexuality

As the several year process of exploring what it is to be a congregation that is Open and Affirming comes to an end, the final piece is education. With the Bible being at the core of our faith, it is important to understand what comes from the Scripture related to human sexuality and relationships. To understand it better, Dr. Stagg will lead two Bible studies to discuss what the Bible says and how we can faithfully engage scripture. This opportunity continues our ongoing conversation about welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities at FCC.

The two studies will present the same material. Please consider joining in one of these important conversations. If you are supportive, have questions and need more information, or if you are strongly against – join us. Come and learn, share in the conversation. Be informed. Plan to attend? Please RSVP online at firstchristian.org/event-rsvp or via the church office.

Sunday, June 6 - 5:00pm

Wed., June 16 - 6:30pm

Home Worship for Sunday, May 30

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.

God be with you...

In the rough places.

God be with you...

Alongside for the journey.

God be with you...

So that you will always remember.

God be with you...

With the promise of more, an eternal hope.

In the return to easy days, and restful nights.

Showing you the blessings all around.

Rejoice! God's Holy Spirit is with you always. AMEN.

READ SCRIPTURE. Psalm 104:24-35b

God Be with You till We Meet Again

*God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

[Refrain:]

*Till we meet (Till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet;)
till we meet (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings, protecting, hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]*

*God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]*

*God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]*

By Jeremiah Rankin (1880) Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU
Chalice Hymnal # 434

MEDITATION. *The simple truth*

My home church, back in our first days among Christian Church (DOC), most Sundays closed the worship service with today's included hymn "God Be with You..." It alternated with "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" as the departing hymn. They were songs of blessing on each other as we left church. The simple tunes and short verses, the ideas found in the words became easy to sing without a hymnal. They were familiar and constant all the years. After a while, you just know it, sing it, and believe it.

There is some important truth to be shared by a church that says goodbye in the right way. The truth? It is that God brings us together and also parts us. The Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end, the creator, sustainer, and redeemer is God. It is true that God is in birth and death, arriving and departing, settling in for the long haul and packing up to move. We hope others also know that presence in all the parts of life. God's counsel, care, provision, unfailing presence, and love are indeed ours to know.

Sometimes we just need to say to those we love what we believe God will be for them as we part company. We also want to leave space for hope that we will meet again. Perhaps it is next week. Maybe it is in another city years from now. It might even be that our reunion is unknown in terms of time and place. But we know it will be. For God keeps us in that way, never completely apart. It might even be in the great beyond, the heavens, in the sacred hours and places of the life eternal. We hope that is the case, too.

God be with you till we meet again. God upholding, and enfolding you...
God protecting and providing, loving and saving you...

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(-Jimmy Spear)

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 good news of God lived out in Jesus Christ. May the Spirit of God abide in your days and ways. Amen.



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101 N. 10th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
573-449-7265
email: fcc@firstchristian.org
web: firstchristian.org

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First Christian Church

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

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
brad@firstchristian.org
Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
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

Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry

Rev. Sally Robinson, Director
Dr. Kim Leon, Assistant Director

Support Staff

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

June 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21					
27	28					

July 2021						
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					3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2021						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

DOUBLE-ISSUES ARE COMING!

With the summer months, come double-issues of the Visitor.

Please note the calendar to the left. **Circled dates are Publication Days** for the Visitor: Summer Edition.

*Please have submissions to the church office by the **MONDAY MORNING PRIOR** to the desired publication date. Thanks!*

Note: Weekly issues resume on August 27.



Happy Birthday to You!

May 30 Kameron Freed
May 31 Timothy McCarty
June 3 Sarah Hoffman,
Michael Provenzano