



## the VISITOR

January 29, 2021  
Vol. 79, No. 114

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

### Happening Soon

#### SUNDAY, JAN. 31

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

#### TUESDAY, FEB. 2

- DOC College Group, 7:30am, YFH

#### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3

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

#### SUNDAY, FEB. 7

- Coffee Hour, 9:30am, Zoom
- Virtual Worship, YouTube
- Chi-Rho, 12:00pm, Yonker Hall

### Happy Birthday!

- Feb. 1 Amy Marrero
- Feb. 2 Millie Bolman (102!)
- Feb. 3 William Creasy
- Feb. 4 Susan Palmer



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

### 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.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Epiphany, January 31

*With Authority*

Mark 1:21-28

Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching



## Renew & Retreat

**Saturday, Feb. 6**  
**8:30am-12:00pm**  
**On Zoom**

#### Morning Plan:

- 8:30am: Morning check in with introduction and prayer.
- 9:00-11:30am: Individual Retreat Time —  
—Two hours of retreat at home to include assignments for study, reading, prayer, and exercise.  
—A scheduled 15-30 min. one-on-one spiritual-pastoral-conversation with Rev. Jimmy.
- 11:30am: A closing group time of reflection and prayer at 11:30.

Interested? Start by blocking the time Feb.6, and RSVP to Jimmy. ([jimmy@firstchristian.org](mailto:jimmy@firstchristian.org)) He will reply with Zoom information.

### Invitation to Retreat

Last week, I wrote in the Visitor of retreat and renewal. I explained I was working on a new opportunity for us to share that in the season of COVID. February 6 is in one week. I realize several things: short notice and open schedules on winter Saturdays in the time of COVID. This combination could very well be the key to you taking the time needed for your spirit. The biggest thing is the time – setting aside 3.5 hours. Will you join us? (Please contact me if you have interest in this, but unable to join Feb. 6. Another day can be arranged.)

The two hours of home retreat might include: letter writing; walking and praying; Bible reading; phone calling; writing; praying the scripture; plan making; book starting; quiet. Ideas and tools will be shared in the opening session.

The individual conversation with me: we will talk directly about prayer life, needs, concerns, and celebrations. It can do much good to just talk about one's spirit.

Accountability, expression of needs and hopes are key to renewal.

*Rev. Jimmy Spear*

### Lenten Devotionals Available

Place orders by Monday, Feb. 15th

Order your Lenten devotional material now. As Lent begins February 17, devotional materials, as we have offered in past years, are being prepared. Email or call the church office to request a copy. If you are unable to come pick one up, we can mail it to you.





## Bit From Brad

**Worship:** FCC will continue with YouTube worship *only* for Sunday, February 7. The Officers, while still concerned about the unknown impact of Mizzou and CPS students only one week into returning to their classes, are cautiously optimistic that Columbia is nearing a turning point. With Boone County active cases

remaining high, but not peaking as high as they did in the fall, this provides tempered optimism. This optimism is tempered by local and public health officials stating that “the worst is yet to come.” Our hope is that the next week or two will be telling for FCC’s return to onsite worship.

Another hopeful sign is the number of older congregation members who are already reporting having received the COVID-19 vaccine. Colleen Nilges, who works at Lenoir, reported that 96% (or more) of Lenoir residents received the vaccine last week. Everyday, more and more church members and staff share with me that they’ve received the vaccine. Obviously, the more church members who receive the vaccine, especially our older members, will accelerate our return to onsite worship. We encourage all members, especially our senior citizen members, to talk with their physician or health care professional about whether the vaccine is available to or good for you as soon as possible.

Please continue to pray for the health and protection of our church members, especially our vulnerable elderly members which comprise such a large portion of our congregation! And please continue to join us on YouTube each week at our YouTube channel: “First Christian Church – Columbia, Missouri.” Please remember to “Like,” “Subscribe,” and “Share” with your family and friends!

**PPP Loan:** We received wonderful news from Calloway Bank on Monday, Jan. 25. They officially notified us that FCC has been forgiven in full for of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan of \$121,500. While expected, it is nonetheless a great joy to receive confirmation of this good news! Much thanks goes to Fred Mottaz, our Business Manager, and Steve Smith, our Treasurer for their tireless efforts and experience, to navigate these uncharted waters for our congregation! Thank you, Fred and Steve!!

Also, we have learned that FCC qualifies for a second PPP Loan in the amount of \$112,300. Like the first loan, we have every bit of confidence that this second loan will also be forgiven in full. As such, the Administrative Board has been called to a Special Meeting for Tuesday, January 26 at 7:30pm via Zoom for a one-item agenda, seeking the Board’s approval to enter into the second loan. Since this newsletter is printed and mailed midday of Tuesday, Jan. 26, we won’t be able to share the results of the Admin Board until next week’s edition. So stay tuned! In the meantime, we thank God for God’s protection and provision for First Christian Church!

Blessings, *Dr. Brad*

## Watch Out for Scammers

Scammers are still targeting church members. First Christian pastors and staff will NEVER email you to ask for a quick favor to buy gift cards or provide sensitive information. The City of Columbia Police Department gives details of what to do if you suspect fraud: [CPD Press Release Nov. 24, 2020](#)

## Columbia College Connections

FCC member **Genie Rogers** was recently featured in a Columbia College Connected e-publication. Genie is a member of the Board of Trustees and has a long family connection to the college. Over the generations, her family has been part of the college in roles as president, headmistress, trustees and alumni. “From my upbringing and involvement all the time I was growing up with the school, I feel a strong commitment to see that it’s headed in the right direction,” she said. To read the full article go to <https://connected.ccis.edu/2021/01/rogers-family-legacy-dates-back-to-early-years-of-college/>



FCC Senior Minister, **Dr. Brad Stagg**, has recently been named Chairperson of the Columbia College Board of Trustees. With the college being related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), its founding and legacy have been closely connected to First Christian Church over the years. The Senior Minister of FCC has been a trustee member for many years.

### Birthday #102 for Millie Bolman

In the year of COVID, with no way to plan a big party, all are encouraged to send birthday greetings to our friend, Millie Bolman (noting Millie’s 2020 updated address at Lenoir Woods) on the occasion of #102, February 2!

**Mrs. Millie Bolman**  
3801 Miller Dr. #511  
Columbia MO 65201



# Home Worship for January 31

*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 111)

By this I have known the presence of the Lord:

*in the rising of the sun,  
in the smile of another's face,  
in the touch of a hand  
or the sound of a laugh,  
in the scent of a flower holding the promise of spring.*

By this I have known the power of the Lord:

*in the healing of hurts,  
in the forgiveness of sin,  
in the giving of gifts beyond all expectation,  
in the shower of love that comes from God's Son.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord with all of our heart!

Let us worship our God, whose presence and power endures forever!

### LIGHT.

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

## Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
doth its successive journeys run;  
his love shall spread from shore to shore  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.*

*To Christ shall endless prayer be made,  
and endless praises crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice;*

*People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.*

*Blessings abound where'er he reigns;  
all prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.*

*Let every creature rise with song;  
honors and praise to Christ our belong;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen!*

By Isaac Watts (1719) Tune: DUKE STREET  
Chalice Hymnal #95

**READ SCRIPTURE.** Psalm 111

**MEDITATION.** God alone.

How is our praise of God doing this week?

Start with giving thanks. Not just a little list here or there. Not just a repeat of yesterday. The psalmist invites us to use our "whole heart" and to do so in the company of others from our family of faith. That is fine today, but we are home alone and not with our prayer partners in worship. How then do we pray with company? We are invited to figure that out. Call others to listen AND to share prayers with others.

Need help? Ponder on the *great works* of God, consider what has been *majestic* in the works of God, and be reminded of God's *wonderful deeds*. What has been the food provided to us? We who fear (interpreted as honor) God are recipients of great care and provision (the Psalmist says food). Think of the care and provisions of God that are a part of our covenant – we are God's people, God as our God. We continue to ponder God in the recalling of works of God related to faithfulness and justice in the world. What recent scenes have we noticed to be God-like? Have there been occasions where the faithfulness of God was most recognizable in the world?

Is there a way that our thinking of all these things is really a form of personal prayer? The last verse of Psalm 111 helps set the stage for praying our way into our future. The fear (honor) of God is the beginning of wisdom, and we who practice it understand God and how our praise can indeed endure. May we be encouraged to be people of praise on this very day. 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.*

### 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

*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.

## 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):**

Sundays, Jan. 31 and Feb. 28: 12:00-1:15pm and will include pizza lunch.  
(need a parent partner to volunteer)

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

Jan 31: CYF

Feb 7: Chi-Rho (note: due to Super Bowl CR will meet 12:00-1:15 and will include pizza lunch)

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

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

Feb 28: CYF

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