



the VISITOR

September 3, 2021

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- On-Site Worship Service, 9:30am

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- Labor Day - OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Ladies Book Club, Bethany Hall, Noon
- Bible Study, Noon, Morris Parlor
- Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- On-Site Worship Service, 8:30am
- Sunday School Classes Begin, 9:30
- On-Site Worship Service, 10:30am
- JYF, 4pm, YFH
- CYF, 5pm, YFH



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

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 5TH

*"MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER
JUDGEMENT"*

JAMES 2:1-17

DR. STAGG, PREACHING

2 WORSHIP OPTIONS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 9:30AM:

In-person worship in the Sanctuary.

AT-HOME, ONLINE: Watch the recording of the live service—available late on Sunday via email/YouTube channel/FCC Facebook page. *"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"*

Youth Groups To Resume

Beginning Sunday, September 12

The Student Ministry Department has met and decided that our Youth Groups will continue while we search for our new Associate Minister. Thankfully, our parents



are stepping up to help make this happen for our kids! Our JYF group will be led by Tori Pine with help from Jessica Humble and Allie Schomaker. The Chi Rho and CYF groups will be led by Stacy and Ryan Silverwood with help from Eric Arnett and Holly

Gieseke. Our youth are very lucky to have parents and church members who are committed to continuing our strong Youth Groups in the interim. Please take a moment to thank these individuals when you see them.

We will meet in Yonker Fellowship Hall, masked, following safety protocols and socially-distanced. Below are the meeting dates and times. November dates are tentatively listed. If you have any questions, please contact Tori Pine, Student Ministry Dept. Chair at vdpine1@gmail.com or 573-529-6414. We are all so looking forward to this coming year, see you soon!

Fall '21 Youth Group Schedule

Sundays - Sep. 12 - Nov. 21

4-5pm - JYF & Chi-Rho Alternating Weeks:

JYF (grades 3, 4, 5)

Sep. 12, 26, Oct. 10 (Nov. 7, 21)

Chi Rho (grades 6, 7, 8)

Sep. 19, Oct 3, 17 (Nov 14)

5-6pm - CYF (grades 9-12)

Every Sunday - Sep. 12 - Nov. 21



Oct 24: Tentative Bonfire for all groups

Oct 31: Tentative Trunk or Treat



Bit From Brad

Discovering the New Normal

Returning to FCC's pre-COVID format continues to be a challenge, as COVID-variants rise. The Delta variant has thrown a few monkey wrenches into our plans, but not enough to deter us. As many of you know firsthand, breakthrough infections for vaccinated individuals continue plus children under 12 remain unable to receive any vaccinations. Thankfully, these obstacles cannot thwart the faith, resolve, or adaptability of our church leaders. With the Holy Spirit's guidance, they are adapting to these constantly changing times -- discovering the New Normal!

As such, our leaders remain firmly committed to resuming FCC's original Sunday format: 2 Services at 8:30 & 10:30, Sunday school at 9:30, and Fellowship groups in late afternoons & evenings -- beginning Sunday, September 12. To do so *safely*, our original "return to church" plans required modifications.

Deacons & Communion --

First, we will continue using and distributing the prepackaged communion packets and receive offerings as we have since Feb. 14 -- for both services! While this won't impact the 8:30 Service greatly, it will significantly alter all the planning that went into bringing back the Deacons for receiving offering and sharing communion. A "Big Thanks" goes to our former Deacon Chair, Amy LaHue, our new Deacon Chair, Debbie Potthast and all the Deacon Team Captains and Teams who worked so hard to be ready for Sept. 12! Thank you! Hopefully, we will reactivate our Deacons soon, so Deacons, please "stand by and ready" as we wait for the right conditions to return.

News of the People



Healing & Health...

Randall & Delain Cavanah's five year-old grandson in Omaha, Neb., who is recovering from back surgery, has been placed on a respirator.

Upcoming Meetings...

Tuesday, Sep. 14 - Cabinet, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

Tuesday, Sep. 21 - Administrative Board, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

Office Closed...

The church office will be closed on Monday, Sep. 6 in observance of Labor Day.



Masks --

Second, we'll have to return to wearing masks at church. I know! It's not my favorite thing to do either, but Christ calls us to be compassionate to those who are vulnerable and so... here we go again. Thankfully, our children, teens, college students, teachers, administrators and professors have returned to their classes at Columbia Public Schools, MACC, Columbia College and Mizzou and can lead us by example since all those institutions have also returned to wearing masks at their indoor campuses, as well.

May God's protection and care continue to bless First Christian Church. See you (masked) in church!

And, just in case you did not receive the email notice concerning masks, here it is again:

As COVID-19 active cases rise, including breakthrough infections of those vaccinated, FCC leadership remains committed to protecting our most vulnerable populations, especially our children under twelve. Therefore, the decision has been made to return to requiring masks to be worn at all indoor church events, including but not limited to: worship, Sunday school, Bible studies, meetings, fellowship groups, etc., effective this Sunday, Sep. 5. This decision will be reevaluated monthly. Your cooperation on this matter is greatly appreciated. May God continue to watch over the health and wellbeing of our congregation and community!

Blessings, *Dr. Brad*



Children's Education Reminders

Kickoff Sunday: September 12

Yay! We can't wait for the fun to begin!

Sunday School & Children's Worship return!

We are excited to see everyone!

Sunday School Classrooms (3rd Floor)

Pre-K-2ND Grade

3-5TH Grade

6-12TH Grade

- Christy Von Talge, Children's Edu. Chair -

Ladies' Book Club Reading List



Ladies, here is the list of books chosen for this year. Join us on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Bethany Hall at noon. In August, we choose the books for the coming year and enjoy lunch together. Then we meet for 8 months to discuss that month's title, skipping December in favor of going

out to lunch, and ending in May. If you like a lively discussion and a good read, please join us!

The following is this year's schedule and book list:

- ♦ **Sep. 8th** - *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel
- ♦ **Oct. 13th** - *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah
- ♦ **Nov. 10th** - *Mokane to Mole City* by Stan Adams
- ♦ **Dec 8th** - Enjoy Lunch
- ♦ **Jan. 12th** - *Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes
- ♦ **Feb. 9th** - *The Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig
- ♦ **March 9th** - *This Tender Land* by William Kent Kruger
- ♦ **April 13th** - *The Man I Knew* by Jean Becker
- ♦ **May 11th** - *The Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker

Sign Up to Purchase Chancel Flowers

2022 Dates Still Available



The beautiful flowers that grace our chancel every Sunday don't just magically appear. They are purchased by wonderful people just like you to honor someone special, to celebrate an anniversary or to remember a departed family member. After the worship service, the flowers are taken to someone

who might need a pick-me-up; shut-ins, patients at hospitals, friends of FCC and more!

Anyone who wishes to sign up for donating flowers for the chancel (only \$30) for the remaining 2022 dates can sign up in the church office as well as before/after Sunday worship in the Narthex. There are still dates available in January, March, April and May. We would love to fill them all.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!



Notes of THANKS

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the gift of my scholarship. It will help so much this year. I appreciate all that the church has done for me.

-- **Will Bower**

Dear First Christian Church,

I am honored to be the recipient of the Thomas and Mildred Shrout Memorial Scholarship and the 175th FCC scholarship this year. From as long as I can remember, First Christian Church has always been a part of my life. Through children's worship and Sunday school to youth group and mission trips, my participation has brought me to where I am today with lifelong friends and a greater sense of my direction in life.

The money will go a long way as I pay for college expenses and supplies through my remaining years at Mizzou. I am blessed to be a part of such a caring congregation.

Sincerely, **Wyatt Rogers**

Dear First Christian Church Friends and Family,

I feel honored to have been the recipient of the 175th scholarship, as I have spent my life growing up in First Christian Church. From attending Sunday school to engaging in youth activities and serving on mission trips, I have forged very strong relationships with God, as well as my closest friends to this day.

The help First Christian has provided for me has not just been in faith, but also with my education. For that, I am truly grateful.

Sincerely, **Hunter Rogers**

Members of the Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for your donation to my educational journey. With classes returning to a state of near normalcy, diving head first into academics is more important than ever. I will use these funds to purchase books for the coming semester for classes such as Political Ecology, Extreme Weather & Society, and Water Resource Law. With them under my belt, I will be one semester away from graduating with a BA in Geography. This Fall, I will continue preparing to take the Law School Admissions Test, which I hope to take in 2022. Thank you again for this scholarship. I will work diligently to feel worthy of your generosity.

Best wishes, **Wolf Schaefer**



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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

Music Staff

Daniel Shafer, 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

Good for a laugh...



Happy Birthday!

Sep. 4 Mary Tompson (90!), Noah Stagg
Sep. 6 Marsha Rawlings,
Perry Stemmons (91!)
Sep. 7 Larry Burnam, Richard Martin
Sep. 8 Jeff LaHue, Joseph McCormack
Sep. 9 Bonnie Fay, Shannon Schaefer



Happy Anniversary!

Perry & Helen Stemmons
Sep. 7 - 69 Years
Rich & Betty Montgomery
Sep. 12 - 57 Years

