

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2ND

No Fear

1 John 4:7-21

Hymn: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching

ALL WORSHIP OPTIONS: 3 WAYS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 9:30AM:

On-site, in-person worship has resumed in the Sanctuary at 9:30am. Masks and social-distancing are required.

An **RSVP** is needed for all attending. Childcare now available - please note in your RSVP. To RSVP call the office or visit firstchristian.org/worship-rsvp.

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

"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"

AT-HOME LITURGY: Provided in this newsletter.



the VISITOR

April 30, 2021
Vol. 78, No. 6

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

Happening Soon

SATURDAY, MAY 1

- O&A Documentary, 6:30pm, Cinema

SUNDAY, MAY 2

- On-Site Worship Service, 9:30am
- JYF, Noon, YFH
- CYF, 6:30pm, YFH
- Trivia Night, 6:30pm, YFH

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

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

THURSDAY, MAY 6

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

FRIDAY, MAY 7

- DOC Breakfast, 8:30am, Bethany Hall

SATURDAY, MAY 8

- Chi-Rho Event, evening

SUNDAY, MAY 9 - MOTHER'S DAY

- Baptism Sunday
- On-Site Worship Service, 9:30am

KINDLY RSVP FOR EVENTS ONLINE:

FIRSTCHRISTIAN.ORG/EVENT-RSVP



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

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Celebration Sunday

HONORING

Rev. Jimmy Spear

IN GRATITUDE OF HIS 14 YEARS OF MINISTRY
AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, COLUMBIA

Sunday, May 23rd | Following 9:30 Worship
Yonker Fellowship Hall

RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE OR ONLINE

Celebration Sunday Announced

Following last week's announcement that Jimmy would be leaving us in May, a committee has been formed to plan a special send off for his last Sunday in church. We have already met and are moving fast due to the short time we have. Jimmy is very special to us and, through the years, has become intertwined in the life of the church and the lives of our people. I don't think any of us can think of church without him. Lifelong relationships have formed that will continue to be consequential to those involved. As much as he will be missed, we want him to have another successful chapter in his life at First Christian Church in Edwardsville. To celebrate the 14 years he has been with FCC, a celebration is being planned for his last Sunday, May 23. You will be an important part... (Continued on Page 2)

Celebration Sunday *(Cont'd from pg. 1)*

...in making that day a success by your presence! The celebration will start with presentations in church, proceeded by a reception in Yonker Fellowship Hall following church.

Book of Letters

A book of letters will be assembled for Jimmy to let him know how much we appreciate his time here in Columbia and the enormous contributions he has made to our lives and our church. Everyone is encouraged to write a note, which will be assembled into a scrapbook of memories put together by Brenda Mosby and presented in church on Celebration Sunday. Since Jimmy's last Sunday with us is less than a month away, we don't have a lot of time, so we urge that you get the letters in to the church office as quickly as possible. Send letters to the Church Office, attn: Fred Mottaz. Fred will see that Brenda gets the letters promptly.

Congregational Love Gift

Donations are welcomed from all members of the congregation for a monetary gift to be given to Jimmy in appreciation for his 14 years of ministry to First Christian Church. Send your confidential contribution to JIMMY SPEAR FUND, First Christian Church, attn: Fred Mottaz.

— *Genie Rogers, Administrative Department*

News of the People

Gratitude...

I would like to thank our great church friends for all their prayers and support following my recent surgery. And a special "thank you" to Brad and Jimmy. Jimmy, for his several uplifting visits and beautiful flowers and Brad, for his wonderful pastoral calls and surprising us in a dark hospital parking lot at 5:30am with words of encouragement and a beautiful prayer. What an amazing church we have.

— *Mary Tompson*

Healing...

Continued prayers for **Carol Thomas** (receiving radiation and chemo) at Columbia Post Acute; **Trish Stagg's** sister **Christine Gonzales** (in Texas, receiving dialysis 3x times a week).

Honoring Graduates...

Graduating high school seniors will be honored in worship on Sunday, May 16. A list of those individuals and any other members who are graduating from other levels of higher education will be featured in the Visitor at the end of May. Please submit those names with the school and degree to the church office by May 14.

Online Giving and the Speedy Way to Design a Website (Just Have a Global Pandemic)

Stewardship Campaign Member Witness - Week 3

By Stacia Schaefer

A year and a half ago, the Evangelism Committee was talking about ways to reach new people. Although we discussed many possibilities, one thing we came up with was to redo the church website. It had been redesigned only a few years before, but changes in the world of the internet move fast, and it was already feeling dated. Also, the design could only be changed by the company hosting it, so the lack of flexibility was frustrating to staff, and it cost money any time we wanted something changed. There was no option to do online giving, and although we discussed the idea of being able to expand into video someday, that seemed like it would be light years away. We could pay someone to do it but didn't have the budget for that. We knew it was possible to do it ourselves, but no one on the Evangelism Committee, or the Communications Committee, which I'm also a part of, had done that before. Plus, with a committee structure of approvals and consensus, I figured it would take a long time.

Well, we all know what happened just a few months later. Suddenly, with the pandemic, online giving wasn't just wishful thinking, it was an absolute must. I began to research programs that would allow us to have this capability when I came across a platform called Subsplash. Through this program, we could offer online giving to our members right away, and the Subsplash software made it easy to redesign our webpage in a user-friendly and current way, plus we could even host our video services on our own website. We decided to adopt Subsplash and got to work.

Everyone who worked on this to make it a reality was wonderful. Scott Schaefer donated his time and talent to take gorgeous pictures to make our website pop. Allie Shoemaker contributed a lot of writing and editing, committee heads read and approved drafts, members dug through photos of their kids at church camp and vacation bible school and sent them in. I had been working on a church t-shirt design, which we adopted as our new logo. The staff all had to take on learning how to deal with the new website, along with the other changes and uncertainty they were being put through.

There's nothing like a crisis to speed things up! I can't believe that the website has been live for months now. I'm grateful to everyone who saw a need and jumped in to help make it a reality. So my message to you today has two parts. 1) If you haven't tried online giving, please check it out! It's easy and fast to set up with a credit or debit card, and you can set it up to recur weekly or monthly so it's consistent revenue for the church. 2) You don't have to wait for a global pandemic to make a difference here. There are ways to contribute in every facet of our church life and you will always find something that could use your help.



Home Worship for Sunday, May 2

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.

God, your love for us is all around our space, time and dwelling inside our hearts and minds. Thank you for abiding in us, allowing us the chance to abide in your son, Jesus. Help us to know the way of faith. Keep us close to words of forgiveness, acts of mercy, and a life of humility as we are a neighbor and disciple. Thank you God for trusting us with your vine and branches. Amen.

*The following hymn will serve as the day's litany.

God of Grace & God of Glory

*God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.*

*Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy righteous goal,
lest we miss thy righteous goal.*

*Set our feet on lofty places;
fill our lives that we may be
strengthened with all Christ-like graces
pledges to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we fail our call from thee,
lest we fail our call from thee.*

*Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.*

By Harry Emerson Fosdick (1930)

Tune: CWM RHONDDA Chalice Hymnal # 464

READ SCRIPTURE. John 15:1-8

MEDITATION. *The ancient vine*

The gospel story of Jesus speaking about vine and branches, vinegrower and fruit seems as ancient as our people's faith. There is something foundational about those images. When we think of metaphors for God, Jesus, disciples, and the Christian faith—vine, vinegrower, fruit—easily come to mind.

As the season of Easter wanes there is need to remember the ongoingness of the risen Christ's encouragement of abiding. Abiding, lasting a long time—enduring, is a key part of our relationship with God for the long haul of life. We find the abiding in our connectedness. We carry connection to the risen Christ into the future in an enduring way.

If we are to bear fruit in this life — fruit of love, justice, mercy — then being connected to Jesus is key. If we are to pass on a faith full of wonder at the Creator's power, then connectedness to God is key. If we are to set our sights on a life that is eternal, then our connectedness to God surely needs an abiding nature. If we are to know love, then connected to Jesus heart we abide. How do we abide? The answer, Jesus suggests, is in His words. His words enduring in us: *"I am the bread of life, I am the way, I am truth. Love your neighbor as yourself. Let the first among you who has not sinned cast the first stone. I will prepare a place for you. Come to me all who are weary and burdened, I will give you rest. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. With God all things are possible. Blessed are they who..."*

Are these the words that abide in us? Do we live them too? As branches on the vine, tended to by the vinegrower (GOD) we have a chance for good and faithful years ahead. May it be so as we continue to grow. 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, and know good news of God lived out in Jesus Christ. May God's joy and love abide in your days and ways. Amen.



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First Christian Church

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

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Youth Groups

The Spring semester finishes up...

May 2: JYF 11:00am); CYF 6:30pm

May 8: Chi-Rho—evening

May 16: CYF —afternoon

Ultimate Frisbee and cookout.

Mission Trips Announced...

CYF: May 28-31

Chi-Rho: June 6-8

DOC College Group

End of semester breakfast — on reading/
stop day, **May 7, 8:30am**. Our favorite
"Ernie's Breakfast" carryout shared
together in Bethany Hall.

Trivia Night

Sunday, May 2, 6:30pm

Yonker Hall - Tables of Four

General and FCC Trivia

Join the fun—fill a table, join a group

RSVP to church office or online:

firstchristian.org/event-rsvp

Sponsored by the Fellowship Dept.

Happy Birthday!



May 2 Doris Neidhardt (95!)

May 3 Nathaniel Leon-Rudy

May 4 Aubrey Schomaker,
Drake Tevis, Deidre Tevis

May 6 Delaney Tevis, Sue Underwood