



• **The Light of Peace** •
2nd Sunday in Advent
December 6
Isaiah 40:1-11

WORSHIP: TWO WAYS

AT-HOME ONLINE: Watch our recorded service on our YouTube channel at *"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"*
AT-HOME LITURGY: Provided on pg. 3

Sunday Coffee Hour

Zoom or Phone at 9:30am



The four Sundays of Advent will feature a new fellowship opportunity: *virtual coffee hour!* Join us on ZOOM for a time of fellowship in the 9:30 hour. Bring your coffee, get your toast ready, and jump online to visit with other folks. **Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27**

Join Zoom Meetings:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87436739020>
ZOOM ID: 874 3673 9020

Dial by phone 312.626.6799 and enter meeting ID: 874 3673 9020

Remember - if you are unfamiliar with Zoom, but would like to try, we have church people who can help! You can also call in by phone and spend time with others. 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.

A Blue Christmas Service

Available on YouTube, December 9

A contemplative service of hope and healing, this is a service for those who feel at odds with or estranged from the general feeling of joy and happiness typically associated with this time of year. This may be those of us who have suffered a personal loss: death of a loved one, divorce, illness, or job loss. It can also be the right chance to deal with the many emotions found in this year of Coronavirus. The Blue Service seeks to offer comfort in the reminder we are not alone and that our feelings are honored. Lovely healing music and candle light will be shared. Having candles ready at home to light will help worshippers take part in the healing ritual of light as the service proceeds. The service will be available mid-week on the FCC YouTube Channel on Wednesday, Dec. 9, to be watched at any time. Make sure to think about others who might benefit from this special service. Let them know about it and share comfort this season.

Children's Worship in Advent



The children of the church were delivered supplies to have Children's Worship at home in the weeks of Advent. Several are pictured here already creatively engaging the story of Jesus birth.



the **VISITOR**

December 4, 2020
 Vol. 78, No. 107

OUR MISSION
To know God and follow Jesus Christ.

Happening Soon

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

- Deadline for Poinsettia Orders

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

- Coffee Hour, 9:30am, Zoom
- VAC Project Drop-Off, 10:30-12pm

TUESDAY, DEC. 8

- Deadline for Xmas Cookie Orders

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Virtual Bible Study, 12pm, Zoom
- Blue Christmas Service, YOUTUBE

FRIDAY, DEC. 11

- Last day to drop of VAC gifts

Happy Birthday!

- Dec 6** Debbie Garton
- Dec. 8** Alexandra Estes, Gabe Palmer, Kenzie Von Talge
- Dec. 10** Marjorie Carter (91!), Curt Snow, Cheryl Unterschut, Willie Mae Wheeland
- Dec. 12** Will Bower, Clifford Tompson (91!)



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

Christmas Cookie Boxes

12 Cookies per box for \$15

COOKIE ORDER FORM

Number of boxes _____ @ \$15 per box = \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Pick Up Time: _____



Please place your order by **Tuesday, December 8.**

Place Order in 2 Ways

MAIL ORDER TO:

First Christian Church,

101 North 10th St., Columbia, MO. 65201

EMAIL ORDER TO: fcc@firstchristian.org

Cookie pickup will be

Sunday, December 13, between 11am and 1pm

Pickup on north side of the Church under the portico. or if worship is held in the Sanctuary in Yonker Fellowship Hall.

QUESTIONS? Call Brenda Mosby at 573-881-8385.

- *Sponsored by The Disciples Women's Fellowship* -

Order online at: firstchristian.org/cookies

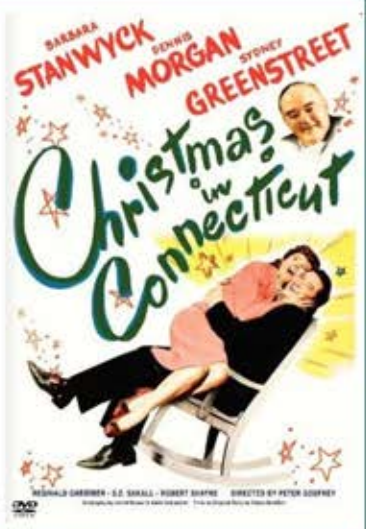
Friday Night Classics!

3rd Floor Cinema

Friday, Dec. 18, 7pm

Fresh popcorn served and
50¢ soda available in
Yonker Hall.

RSVP required to ensure safe spacing—email or call the office to reserve a seat!



News of the People

Prayers...

Shannon Schaefer asks for prayers for her step-father, Dean Bennett, 85, who is home after a hospital stay with COVID and pneumonia. **Frances Brown** is now back in her apartment at Lenoir's Bradford. She continues to recuperate from COVID. **Billie Silvey** continues to rehabilitate at Boone Hospital. **Glenda Clark** continues to rehabilitate The Neighborhoods.

Weekly Holiday Zooms:

The **Wednesday Midweek Connect** Zoom group will have three weeks of festive stories, carols, bright sweaters, and shared goodness. All are invited. Email Laura in the office to get the ZOOM ID code email.

December Graduates...

Please email the church office if any church member students will be graduating this December. We will celebrate with a combined list at the end of the month. Thanks.

Final Week: VAC Holiday Project



Special drop-off day is **Dec. 6th,**

10:30am and 12:00pm in Yonker Hall.

OR bring it by the church office the week of Dec. 7-11.

Remember to read all the instructions on wrapping/not wrapping, labeling, and bagging. Thanks!

Money/gifts must be turned in by Friday, Dec. 11th.

Heifer Int'l Gifts, Part 2

Sheep are always a good gift at Christmas

This week, the Mission Outreach Department reminds you how close sheep are to the story of Jesus' birth. It won't be long until we are singing about them and hearing how the shepherds were the first to the scene in the stable. Wouldn't it be cool to send your grown children a sheep this year? You can do so by donating to Heifer International. No, your daughter's family won't actually get a sheep, but a lovely family in an impoverished country will. With that sheep they will be able to sustain life anew. Giving a sheep (\$120) means a sustained food source and income potential.

Are you one to seek out something that is helpful and not an animal? Heifer offers other options! Send a girl to school for \$275. Buy a share in a bigger (several thousand dollar project) with a gift of \$100.

It is a different year. Perhaps our gifts will reflect our embrace of the needs of the world differently.

Give a gift that changes poverty and hunger in a far away place.

Want to know more? Go to: www.heifer.org to purchase and create an online card to let your family and friends know the impact of your gift. You can also make a donation via check to the church office, noting "HEIFER" on your check.

Home Worship for December 6 In the season of Advent, 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.

The bright and poignant words of today's hymn will serve as words to welcome to worship today.

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

*Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning,
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.*

*To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
whose humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of the anthems roll
to shatter all hate and injustice.*

*In deepest night Christ's coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song,
a lame one leaps in wonder,
the weak are raised above the strong,
and weapons are broken asunder.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though cold the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer,
and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share,
and bring us at last into glory.*

By Marty Haugen, 1983

Tune: REJOICE! REJOICE! Chalice Hymnal #138

The light of PEACE is before us.

Light two candles, one for hope and a second for the peace of God given in the promise of Messiah.

Speak the words,
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

PRAYER

God of peace, as you have come to your people for generations, come to us again this season. Awake us to the idea that the Almighty God would come among us to change the ways of faith. We need you this year more than ever. Keep us searching each new morn for the ways we can take part in your coming. Amen.

READ SCRIPTURE. Isaiah 40:1-11

MEDITATION. *Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.*

Living in 2020 has been for many a wilderness experience. Not because they did it alone, as we were all in this year of change and difficulty — but because it's a wilderness of unknown. To that story, our story of life and faith, we begin Advent with words that perhaps speak differently to us than ever before. The word is from God, spoken through the prophet Isaiah and restated by John the Baptist: (Isa. 40:3) *A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*

For us, the word comes to low places and impassable mountains of the spirit — *Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low. When the road is too hard because of inequality or oppression, hate or economic pain — The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then, only and finally then, the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

We begin Advent with the promise that God knows our places — the valleys, mountains, rough and crooked places — and a word to us that change of spirit can come to us. Sin can be forgiven and life made differently because of God. The difference comes in God coming to us and in return we come to God. In that thin place, we meet and are given the place to be whole.

May the Advent of God among us be healing and whole. 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, bringing the news of peace and hope, of healing and love. Go and the God of peace will always go with you. Amen.



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web: firstchristian.org



Return Service Requested

First Christian Church

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

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Advent Wreaths in Every Home



The variety continues with the home wreaths of, clockwise from left: Sonya Carney, Barb Rothenberger, Holly Gieseke, and Kim Leon. More next week. Send yours to Jimmy.



YOUTH GROUPS

As COVID conditions change our plans, parents will get an email prior to any youth gatherings. The CYF will receive news and plans via their GroupMe text.



DOC COLLEGE GROUP

Tuesdays, 7:30pm
(location in GroupME)