



the VISITOR

February 5, 2021
Vol. 79, No. 115

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

Happening Soon

SATURDAY, FEB. 6

- Renew & Retreat, 8:30am, Zoom

SUNDAY, FEB. 7

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 9

- DOC College Group, 7:30pm, YFH

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10

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

SUNDAY, FEB. 14

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

Happy Birthday!

- Feb. 7 Nathaniel Pine, Lorene Trickey
Feb. 8 Ruth Ann Obrecht
Feb. 10 Jennifer Alexander,
Steven Humble, Steve Smith
Feb. 13 Olivia Johnson



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

5th Sunday after
Epiphany, February 7

Waiting for the LORD

Isiah 40:21-31

Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching

Would you **LOVE** to come in-person to church? Worship 3-ways returns

In-person, in-Sanctuary worship returns February 14



In-person worship at 9:30am in the Sanctuary will return Sunday, Feb. 14.

Masks and social-distancing, plus a few other precautions, are still in effect. A full run down of how we will worship together will be featured in next week's Visitor. It helps if you **RSVP** now by phone or email to the church office fcc@firstchristian.org for the Sunday(s) you are attending. (In-person worship will continue on a week-to-week basis based upon COVID cases/local conditions and could be altered at any time.) A YouTube broadcast of live worship will be offered and emailed out later on Sunday afternoon for those who cannot/choose not to attend. The Visitor liturgy will continue to be offered as usual.



**A service for
repentance and ashes.**

FEBRUARY 17

6:30PM

In-person, in the Visitor, and on YouTube

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

Special Called Board Meeting: On Tuesday, January 26, FCC's Administrative Board gathered for one-agenda-item meeting to hear the recommendations from the Stewardship & Finance Department and the Treasurer to approve their motion to apply for a second Paycheck Protection Program loan from the Small Business

Administration in the amount of \$112,300, which the church was pre-approved by Callaway Bank. While pledged giving continues hovering around the 88-90% range, unpledged and loose offerings remain far below budgeted projections during the COVID-19 pandemic and no onsite worship. This loan coupled with continued pledged and unpledged offerings should allow FCC to sufficiently meet our budget for the remainder of the 2020-2021 year. Hearing these reasons coupled with being fully forgiven the first PPP loan, the Admin Board voted unanimously to approve the loan. Fred Mottaz notified the bank the very next day and, by noon, the funds were in our bank account. Much thanks goes to Church Business Manager Fred Mottaz, Treasurer Steve Smith, and Stewardship & Finance Chair C.K. Hoenes for their financial leadership and management! Thank you Fred, Steve, and C.K.!!

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee (Nom Com) has met for two of its three meetings and nominations are coming in just fine. One of the next steps is to gather nominations for Special Recognitions that are presented at the end of each church year in late June or early July. The Nom Com will continue accepting Special Recognition nominations until 5:00pm on Monday, February 22, when it will meet for the final time to consolidate those Recognitions. So, if there is someone or a group of individuals at church whom you think deserves an extra pat on the back for a job well done or in which extra effort was given, then please send an email to the church office or mail in the Nomination form that was sent out some weeks ago. Everyone enjoys the encouragement of a compliment, so please make some time to think about those who could use some cheering and need to hear, "Well done!"

9:30 Zoom Coffee Hour: What a joy it has been to gather via Zoom each Sunday morning at 9:30 with those who join us for a virtual coffee hour! If you haven't done so yet, I really encourage you to join us through the Zoom link on the Sunday morning congregational email that also provides the YouTube link. It's so wonderful to catch up on the lives of our fellow church friends! A few weeks ago, Nancy Watson joined us all the way from North Carolina and yesterday, Sarah & John Yonker joined us. You never know who will be on next!! Hope to see you there!

Blessings, *Dr. Brad*

News of the People

Prayers

Charlie and Betty Koelling are on the mend from a recent bout of COVID-19. Charlie continues to recuperate at Lenoir's REACH after a hospital stay. **Glenda Clark** recently sustained a fall and broke the other hip, had emergency surgery and is now in rehabilitation at Columbia Post-Acute. **Janice Bencoter (mother of Vicki Johnson)** was a patient at Boone Hospital and is now back to her home at Colony Pointe.



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? You can still sign up by Friday night. Start by blocking the time Feb.6, and RSVP to Jimmy. (jimmy@firstchristian.org) He will reply with Zoom information.



Open & Affirming Video Watch + Zoom

A conversation on welcome—watch video and join Feb. 18 Zoom discussion

The Open and Affirming Exploration Team invites members and friends to take advantage of continued "home" centeredness by watching a PBS video/documentary on the theme of "churches welcoming LGBTQ+ individuals." A zoom based conversation will gather viewers questions and observations in a one hour session. The video "To the Contrary: The Welcoming Movement" tells the story of three congregations (very similar to FCC, Columbia) and their journey to officially become congregations of welcome to all people including the LGBTQ+ population. Watch the video and then join the Zoom on **Thursday, February 18, 7:00pm.**

Use this link to view the video <https://www.pbs.org/to-the-contrary/watch/2039>

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83924785493> On Zoom, meeting ID: 839 2478 5493

Home Worship for February 7 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.

God gives power to the faint.

God gives strength to the powerless.

Youthfulness is not needed, nor is high office.

Past reputations and lists of sins hold no bearing.

God is the one who offers renewal of spirit.

God is the one who offers forgiveness of sin.

It is God who we give our before, during, and after.

It is God who calls us, at any age, in any condition to believe and follow, trust and obey.

Thank you God for lifting us up, on wings like eagles, to places of faith and high regard, wisdom and strength.

Keep us close to you in these days. Amen.

How Firm a Foundation

*"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you God has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?"*

*"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee,
and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."*

*"When through deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."*

*"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply.
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."*

*"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"*

John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.

Tune: FOUNDATION Chalice Hymnal # 618

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

READ SCRIPTURE. Psalm 147:1-11, 22c. Read also Isaiah 40:21-31

MEDITATION. *Beyond Measure.*

The clouds and the animal food. The most powerful and the most powerless. The old and young. The strong and the weak. The rich and the poor. The hungry and the well fed. We could go on and on listing ALL the opposites existing in the world—our world. Two texts speak together to us today as we consider the competing sides of things for God's consideration. We read them and are mindful again of God's ways — inclusive and broad — being present for the creation.

The requirements of God's work to us are just the conditions that we know — the ones we live and breathe. If we are going to talk with God....If we are going to trust in God, it sure helps to know that God is open to our situation. It helps to know that God is not put off by our brokenness or need. God is not only here for the strong and fast. The psalmist and prophet remind us God does not work with those kinds of requirements. Instead, God is at work for all of us.

Is it a one-way street? No. God does require something in the relationship we hold. There is an expectation, on our part, for honor (fear) and hope in the love of God. It is these that God looks to in us and responds with the giving, delight, healing, and strength.

There is something to be said for the chance to do our part in this thing called faith. If God is ready to love and provide for us beyond measure, surely we can be active in trusting in the firm foundation of Jesus, the power of the Spirit, and the love of God renewed each 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.



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Columbia, MO
Permit No. 75

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



Return Service Requested

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

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):

Sunday, Feb. 28: 12:00-1:15pm and will include pizza lunch.

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

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.