



the VISITOR

March 5, 2021
Vol. 79, No. 119

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

Happening Soon

SATURDAY, MAR. 6

- Baptism Class, 5-7pm, YFH

SUNDAY, MAR. 7

- On-Site Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Coffee Hour, 11:00am, Zoom
- Chi-Rho, 5:00pm, YFH

TUESDAY, MAR. 9

- DOC College Group, 7:30pm, YFH

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 10

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

SATURDAY, MAR. 13

- Baptism Class, 9:00am-4:00pm, YFH

SUNDAY, MAR. 14

- On-Site Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Coffee Hour, 11:00am, Zoom
- Baptism Class, 12-3pm, YFH
- Bingo Event, 4:00pm, YFH
- CYF, 6:30pm, YFH

Happy Birthday!

- Mar. 7 Michael Taylor
- Mar. 8 Valerie Freed, Andrea Smith
- Mar. 12 Liam Rose



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

RECLAIMING GOD'S COVENANTS

Worship for Sunday, March 7

"A Promise at Sinai," Exodus 20: 1-17, Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching



THIRD SUNDAY
in
LENT

WORSHIP: 3 WAYS

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

"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"

AT-HOME LITURGY: Provided on page 3.

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH

On-site, in-person worship has resumed at **9:30am** in the sanctuary.

More information is found on page 2. An **RSVP** is needed for all attending.



Cheers to 100!

A grand celebration was held February 27 in honor of Elizabeth Hensley's 100th birthday. Her family traveled from VA and NY to host the COVID secure driveway event. It was a beautiful Saturday morning for the outdoor gathering as masked friends came to bring birthday greetings. A number of church members were among those who brought well wishes, flowers, balloons and cards.

Elizabeth was honored with a Proclamation from Mayor Brian Treece proclaiming it "Elizabeth S. Hensley Day in Columbia, Missouri."

Elizabeth, originally from South Dakota, came to Columbia in 1951 as professor of food and nutrition in the College of Home Economics at the Univ. of MO. It was there she met her husband Eugene Hensley, as he was also on faculty. They joined First Christian in the 1950s and were familiar in the pews among the Clarks, Backues and Carters under the light of the south window. She is pictured with nieces Katie (Jim), Sarah and great-nephew Peter; at right with Jimmy Spear.



BINGO!

March 14, 4pm in Yonker Hall

The Fellowship Department will be hosting monthly gatherings—masked/social distanced—starting in March. The first is BINGO, trivia in April and BINGO again in May.

SPACE UPDATE: We can now hold 100 in Yonker Hall — but we still need an RSVP to prepare the space for all to attend. **RSVP** now to the church office by phone/email or online, firstchristian.org/event-rsvp. We hope you can join us!



Worship In-Person at Church

Information for this Sunday

- **9:30am** in the Sanctuary
- Masks will be required at all times. Sanitizer and masks are available.
- If possible, enter and exit through the bell tower's narthex door. The elevator is available if needed from Yonker Fellowship Hall entrances.
- Seating is throughout the sanctuary in keeping with social-distancing – six feet apart in a pew, alternating middle and sides of pews.
- For those 65+: please use caution and consult your healthcare providers before deciding if you can/should attend.
- Nursery care is currently not offered at this time.
- Registering: **RSVP** now for the coming Sunday. Call/email the church office or visit firstchristian.org/worship-rsvp
- You will be asked to check-in upon arrival, confirming your RSVP or register at that moment (for contact tracing purposes, if needed)
- By registering, you confirm that all attendees are/have:
 - fever-free
 - not experiencing COVID symptoms (fever, shortness of breath, new loss of taste/smell, etc.)
 - have not been asked by health authorities to quarantine in the last 14 days
 - not positive for COVID or awaiting results of a COVID test.
- A bulletin with words & hymns provided.
- Individual communion will be provided.

News of the People & Places

Sympathy...

Prayers of sympathy to **Monica and Russ Palmer** and family in the passing of Monica's mother **Linda Senecal Calhoun**. Linda moved to Columbia some years ago to be close to family and often attended worship and events with the Palmers at FCC.

Healing...

prayers this week for **Cindy Smith**, recovering at home from a full knee replacement; **Natalie Barnard's** mother **Mary Bowyer**, is now home after recent surgery.

Note of Thanks...

Thank you for the meals, cards, calls and prayers from our church family in these past weeks throughout my time of illness and surgeries and subsequent continued recovery. We will be forever grateful for your support, kindness, and love.

-- Glenda Clark & Family

Baptism & Discipleship...

The annual baptism and discipleship class was postponed last year due to the pandemic. Our now 7th graders will join with this year's 6th graders taking time in study, conversation, and exploration of faith in the coming weeks of March. This is in preparation for the sacrament of Baptism in later spring. Rev. Spear leads the class.

Scholarship Applications...

The applications for FCC Scholarships are now available for those members who are in undergraduate programs of higher education to apply. The application and information can be accessed from the church office or Jimmy Spear via email. Those who were awarded scholarships in the past are encouraged to apply.

The Deadline for applications is **Monday, April 5, 2021**.



Loaves and Fishes

They were all smiles under the masks as food was served.

A good hot meal was distributed to those in need on Monday, Feb. 22. The FCC Mission Outreach takes a turn at Loaves and Fishes on the 4th Monday six times a year. The COVID year has meant the meals are packaged differently for takeout and social-distanced eating in the Wilkes Blvd. UMC church hall. Hot homemade chicken and noodle soup, hot ham and cheese, homemade cookies and salad were served. Pictured in masks are some of the 14 people who served recently. Many others helped ahead of time, including pictured members of the Judy family making the to-go PB&J sandwiches. With food now prepackaged, our team has implemented a great way for folks to help from home in the days leading up to Loaves and Fishes.



Home Worship for March 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 AND PRAYER.

Weary and overwhelmed, we gather.

God's holy word revives us.

Simple and confused, we yield.

God's word gives us wisdom.

Blind and uncomprehending, we await.

God's word enlightens our eyes.

More precious than gold is God's word.

Sweeter than honey are God's commands.

The universe proclaims your truth, O God. Your knowledge flows night and day! I open my ears to hear, my mind to comprehend, and my heart to receive all you would share, provide, and bestow. Bless me now that I may know your presence and be made whole. Amen.

READ SCRIPTURE. Psalm 19

MEDITATION. LAW—PRECEPTS—FEAR

Today's Psalm begins with an invitation to know God.

This is My Father's World

*This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.*

*This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas
his hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the flowers bright,
declare their Maker's praise.*

*Our God has made this world and shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear God pass,
who speaks to me everywhere.*

*Our God has made this world:
oh, let us ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.*

*God trusts us with this world, to keep it clean and fair.
All earth and trees, the skies and seas,
God's creatures everywhere.*

By Maltbie D. Babcock (1901)

Tune: TERRA BEATA Chalice Hymnal # 59

"The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork." How poetic to begin knowing about God. The heavens and firmament — the highest, brightest, most unexplained and unseen. These tell of glory and handiwork. These can tell us how the nature of God goes beyond speech, words and voice. The voice of God is found in all that is above and beyond, rising from the end of the heavens. The speech of God is found in the law that is perfect, reviving the soul. The words of God are found in precepts (rules) that are right. Such rules are often called commandments. All these are wrapped up in the "fear" or "honor" of God enduring forever.

Lofty and rather beyond us is such a discussion of God when we are stuck here in the minutia of life. A disciple of Jesus Christ would do well to ponder in the Lenten season what it is the heavens tell of God—to go beyond earthly understanding and know God. Is there something about time spent in far reaching wonder that could do us good today? Look into the heavens, seek out the firmament as far as the eye can see. If it seems mysterious, then you are looking at the right thing. If there are questions, then you are seeking the right answers. If clarity is needed, seek out the commandments in Exodus 20 and read of Jesus in the Gospels.

What do the heavens proclaim to us about the nature of God? They proclaim again a witness to voice and view that is beyond yet ever near, mysterious yet concrete. This season of God can be so different than last year's journey of Lent that never seemed to release us from ash. It already seems that 2021 looks brighter and better. Perhaps looking up and listening is just the right position to be in for the words of our mouths and meditations of our hearts to be acceptable to God. 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 the covenant of God proclaimed in Jesus Christ. Live in the good news of healing and love. 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

SUNDAY at 11:00am

Zoom or Phone

Join the growing group gathering on Sunday for *virtual coffee hour*. Bring your coffee, get your toast ready, and jump online to visit with other folks.

*This new 11am time allows for 9:30 in-person worship.

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 11:00am.



DOC College Group

Regular gatherings continue on Tuesday nights with social distance and masks in Yonker Fellowship Hall at 7:30pm.

Fill Easter Eggs

An Egg Hunt is being planned for late March. Church friends are invited to drop off items to be put in the colored eggs by SUNDAY, MARCH 14. Coins, little stickers and non-chocolate candy are welcomed. We will do the stuffing this year. Drop off in Narthex on Sunday or the church office this week. Thank you.

Youth Groups

Sundays -- one hour.

Fellowship Hall.

Masks. Distance. Temps Taken.

Letting the air space settle.



JYF (grades 3, 4, 5):

Sunday, Mar. 21: 12:00-1:15pm w/ pizza lunch.

Chi-Rho & CYF meet in-person 2X a month @ 5:00/6:30pm:

Mar. 7: Chi-Rho at 5:00pm

Mar. 14: CYF at 6:30pm

Mar. 21: Chi-Rho at 5:00pm

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