



Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

Worship: 3 Ways

Sunday, August 9

at home and now at church

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

“Dream Power”

Message by Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg

WORSHIP WITH US IN THREE WAYS:

AT HOME, ONLINE: On our YouTube Channel

“First Christian Church (Columbia, MO)”

OR

AT HOME LITURGY: provided on Pg. 3.

OR

AT CHURCH: Worship in the Sanctuary at

9:30am (RSVP through the office)

(See related article on Pg. 2)

Why Welcome is Important

By Dan & Holly Gieseke

Everyone reading this is part of our beloved church family, and we all know that we live by the ‘all are welcome’ mantra. But, our LGBTQ friends and friends of color outside the church might still be thinking, “but, does that include me?” Outwardly proclaiming that FCC is *Open and Affirming*, and openly saying those words, will speak volumes to those friends, and will encourage them to visit and perhaps even join our church family. If we can get these new friends through the door, they will feel and know that they are welcome by the love we show for each other and for new friends. But, if we don’t outwardly proclaim it, they may feel anxious or unsure and may never make it to our door. This is why it’s so important to be very clear about our intentions and our welcome, especially in this time of upheaval and uncertainty – let this be one thing they can be sure of. We are all God’s children and God’s love is for everyone.

Dan and Holly Gieseke are long time members of FCC and have faithfully served in a number of leadership roles. This testimony is the fourth and last for these summer weeks. It’s sponsored by The Open and Affirming Exploration Team as a part of its focus — “Testimonies of a Welcoming Church.”



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We did it! Together. Last week, we rounded out our July Wednesdays of VBS on Zoom. We can’t believe we had to do it that way and we are so glad it worked out as best it could. Our kids learned the Bible stories a little differently this year, but we hope hearing about The Great Armor of God will be with them in these unsure times. Their next quest is to wear that armor and their masks everywhere they go! Every week, we ask for pictures and every week have counted on getting some from the Pine kids. Pictured one more time are **Abby** with her colorful cross craft and **Nathaniel** in what seems to be the middle of a VBS song!



The Return

Plans for Worship in the Sanctuary to Resume

Sanctuary Worship is now **ONE SERVICE at 9:30am.**

Those who are in any at-risk groups (underlying health conditions, immuno-compromised, over the age of 60, etc.) are encouraged to continue worshipping with us online via YouTube and the Visitor Liturgy page.

Worship online via YouTube will be a recording of Sunday morning with the goal of being available online late afternoon/early evening each Sunday.

Worship in the Sanctuary will proceed as follows:

These are not recommendations, but rather instruction for a continued safe experience and follow the mandate of the City of Columbia.

- **RESERVATION:** Due to the max 100 attendees allowed in our space, those planning to attend will need to make a reservation prior to Sunday morning. Any “walk-ins” will be first come, first serve over the reserved number that day.

2 ways to reserve before Friday at 5:00pm:

CALL or EMAIL CHURCH OFFICE:

(leave a message on voicemail if no one answers)

449.7265 fcc@firstchristian.org

- **GATHERING:** There will be no gatherings anywhere including Yonker Hall or the Narthex (no handshakes, hugs or personal greetings that require physical touch and close proximity). ****Bring your SHAWL if you are prone to COLD!**

- **MASKS & HEALTH QUESTIONS:** Anyone attending worship will be required to remain masked throughout. All those leading worship will remove their masks only while addressing the congregation from the chancel. Volunteer hosts will be asking about recent health and available to take temperatures, but we ask all attendees check their own temp before coming to church.

- **IN & OUT:** We will ALL enter the sanctuary via the Bell Tower door. A line down the ramp and sidewalk with distance between individuals/families is expected. (Bring an umbrella in the case of rain.) There will be an orderly process for entering/exiting the facility and the worship space assisted by ushers/volunteers (filling front to back).

- **MUSIC:** With hymns not being sung, all will be “listening silent singers” of the day’s hymn/music by the music staff.

- **OFFERING & COMMUNION:** There will be an offering station where your financial gifts can be received as people leave the sanctuary. Communion will be sealed, prepackaged communion elements picked up as people enter.

- **CHILDREN:** We will **NOT** be offering on-site childcare in the nursery or having Children’s Worship at this time.

News and Notes...

Prayers...

Joy Overacre is now at RUSK rehabilitation center after a recent stroke. We continue in prayer for **Beth Jorgenson (daughter of Cliff and Mary Tompson)** in continued concern of breast cancer, it’s spread, and current treatments.

Sympathy...

Prayers of sympathy are extended to the family of **Dick Underwood**. His wife Sue and son Jeff were by his side as he died July 30 in their home at the age of 84. **Sue, Jeff and the whole Underwood family** are in our prayers this week. Dick and Sue joined FCC in 2003. Dick was one who sat about as far front in the sanctuary as any. Services are pending.

Oops...

Last week, we listed **Frances Brown** as turning 91 when in reality she turned 92! It is our practice to honor and list those who have reached the golden years of 90+. We are so glad for their wisdom, care, and perspective as parts of a multigenerational church. We are usually shocked at the number listed next to their names.

Staff Away...

After the 21 weeks of altered worship planning and implementation, two staff will be taking some time off. Rev. Jimmy Spear will be out of the office for vacation August 10-24. Michael Sauer will be off Sunday, August 16.

The News of the Pews...

Happenings you would have heard in the pew

Ella Rogers is playing Club girls basketball this summer on the Phenom Team. The team took 1st place in the Des Moines NIKE tournament on July 12th. **Kim and Hartley Rogers** have been spending their vacation days going to basketball tournaments as parent spectators. If you are one to join the silver sneakers exercise group at the ARC, you might not even recognize **Audrey Shock, Laura Crane, and Marsha Walker** as they sport new masks made by **Peggy Veatch** who has made more than 100. **Bette Scavone** shares that Nat’s son, Ed Scavone, has been recently named President of Central Bank of Book County.

If you have wondered what will become of the *Election Day Lunch and Christmas Bazaar* — two major events in the fall season, don’t worry...alternative plans are being devised for this unique year by **Brenda Mosby and the CWF leaders**.

Perhaps you have wondered about what is happening with others in the church? Maybe they wonder the same about you. Contact Jimmy Spear or Laura Crane with your news to share with the folks here in the “pews.”



On the Sundays we are not together, 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-worship song for listening.
Get communion—any beverage and cracker will do! Be in the spirit of the Holy!

HOME WORSHIP for AUGUST 9

WORD and PRAISE

WELCOME GOD.

Sunshine and celebration! Rain and remembrance!
All are part of the richness of God's mercy and love for us!
God has blessed us in so many ways!
God is welcomed into this celebration of these blessings!
We are excited for a time in praise and prayer.
We are glad to be here!

PRAYER.

Lord, open our hearts and spirits to your love. We come seeking your healing and restorative power. Give us courage to reach out to you in good and easy times, as well as in times of strain and stress. Bring us safely through the trials and tribulations of life, may we live again into your message of peace and hope. Amen.

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

*How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place,
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.*

*In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.*

*A sun and shield forever are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving,
from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.*

By Hal Hobson, 1983 Tune: MERLE'S TUNE
Chalice Hymnal # 285

READ SCRIPTURE. Matthew 14:22-33

MEDITATION.

A friend recently asked, "What do you fear?" In the time of coronavirus, I tell you quite a list can be drawn up. But, if the question is "Ultimately, what do you fear?"—the answer might take a bit. Answers move from daily bread to overall survival—maybe even eternal life. Today's text finds the disciples in a

boat in a storm. Battered by waves, far from land, and with the wind against them the disciples were afraid, fearful. Jesus, coming upon them, says "*Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.*" There is more in this story about Jesus' identity, trust of the disciples, and Jesus dealing with their faith and doubt. However, for us today, let us focus on the storm, the boat and Jesus' first words. **Take heart** — from your spirit, from your love of life and all that is within it. **It is I** — familiar as friend, savior, God's son. **Do not be afraid** — this is not the time for fear nor doubt, you will be alright. We *will* be alright when the wind is against us if we see that it is Jesus who comes toward us with assurance. Assurance for our spirits in love with life and people; assurance for us longing to be at one with Jesus and God; and assurance that fear doesn't have to rule the day. There is much wind against us these days. We miss our routines, our ability to be independent. But when Jesus sees us this afraid, we must trust those words and assurances in his very presence, his call to us, and his ability to show up when the storm is the worst. He offers us a hand and a future. Thanks be to God. (js)

PRAYER and 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. Peace be with you! Speak the truth of God. Live with new life. Be filled with the Holy Spirit! Amen.



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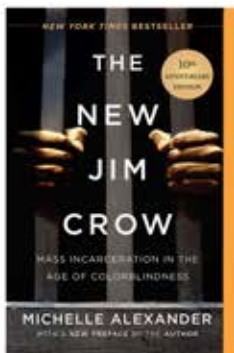
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Return Service Requested

Summer Critical Reading Has Begun

There's still time to join!

Lively discussions via Zoom between many church members have begun based around two books that are both timely and important. There is still room and time for you to take part in these crucial dialogues to take place, for growth of the self, church and society, as a whole! If you feel the call to participate, see below for the book titles and when discussions are taking place. Email fcc@firstchristian.org or call the office to receive the Zoom invitation. You have plenty of time to catch up!



"The New Jim Crow"
 by Michelle Alexander



"Raising White Kids"
 by Jennifer Harvey

Next Meeting: Sun., Aug. 16
Covering: Intro - Chp. 3

1st Meeting: Sun., Aug. 9
Covering: Intro & Chp. 1

Weekly Bible Study and Fellowship

Have you joined yet?



Online gatherings continue for study and fellowship throughout each week via Zoom/online video conferencing service — or by calling in via phone. If you would like to join any of the gatherings, please call or email Jimmy Spear to be connected. Join us!

FELLOWSHIP & LEARNING:

Mid-week Connect with Rev. Spear: None 8/12, 8/19

Bible Study with Dr. Stagg: Wednesdays at Noon

STUDENT MINISTRY: Chi-Rho and CYF: On pause for summer break. Email/GroupMe texts will offer updates.

Departments, committees, and Cabinet meetings are all held on Zoom.



Aug. 9 – Brenda Bailey,
 John Yonker
Aug. 10 – Max Schaefer,
 Robert Seltsam, Carolyn Snow,
Aug. 11 – Briana Pooler
Aug. 12 – James Taylor
Aug. 13 – Tommy Tomlin (92!)

Aug. 14 – Janet Mills,
 Zeke Mottaz
Aug. 15 – Elayna Mottaz

Roy & Joy Overacre
 - August 9 - 51 Years
 Congratulations!