

Baptisms & Baby Dedication This Sunday

May 9 in 9:30 Worship

The 2021 Baptism Class experience will be complete this Sunday as three more young people are baptized, welcomed into membership, and join us at the communion table. This group includes **Ryley Batterson, Ann Volmert, and Kenzie Von Talge**. The worship service will also include the dedication of **Teller Schaefer**, the young son of **Scott and Shannon Schaefer**.



Mini-Golf Pros

JYF, youngest of our student ministry groups, (grades 3, 4, 5) has always enjoyed their time together learning about friendship, Jesus' love and what it is to be a youth group together. Last Sunday, they shared an outdoor lunch, yard games and a round of mini-golf at Midway to end their year. This little group of six has stuck together this year and will no doubt continue to shine as they grow into Chi-Rho and CYF groups.



The Fellowship Dept. hosted a Trivia night on May 2. Seven teams rallied their knowledge, laughed a lot and even moaned

when the questions were difficult! The "Trivia TryHards" team came out victorious and a fun time was had by all. It was truly good to be back together!



Trivia Night Fun!

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 9TH

"Water & Blood"

1 John 5:1-6

Hymn: *Wash, O God, Your Sons & Daughters*

Dr. Brad Stagg, preaching

ALL WORSHIP OPTIONS: 3 WAYS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 9:30AM:

On-site, in-person worship is held 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

May 7, 2021
Vol. 78, No. 7

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

Happening Soon

SATURDAY, MAY 8

- Breakfast for Brethren, 7-9am, YFH
- Chi-Rho Event, 6:30pm, YFH

SUNDAY, MAY 9 - MOTHER'S DAY

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

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

THURSDAY, MAY 13

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MAY 15

- Breakfast for Brethren, 7-9am, YFH

SUNDAY, MAY 16

- Commitment Sunday
- On-Site Worship Service, 9:30am
- CYF Final Event, Noon, Off-site

Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

- All Church Picnic, 5:30pm

KINDLY RSVP FOR EVENTS ONLINE:

FIRSTCHRISTIAN.ORG/EVENT-RSVP



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

'Live Courageously' By Sharing Our Time and Talents

Stewardship Campaign Member Witness - Week 4
By Bryan Garton

Who has grown sweet corn? Maybe as a child in a family garden? Some of us may have been raised on a family farm that grew corn. As you travel and see those rolling fields of lush green corn, have you ever wondered about the decisions that farmers must make to produce a high-quality crop? One important decision is the planting date. Due to soil temperature, April 15th is typically the earliest most Missouri farmers will plant corn, with a goal to finish planting no later than mid-May. Another decision is the seed variety.

A story that has been passed down several generations is about a farmer who grew excellent quality, high yielding corn. Every year, he set county and sometimes state records for high yields. One year, a local newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about his production decisions. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "Why on earth would you share your best seed corn with your neighbors each year?" the reporter asked the farmer.

"Why sir," said the farmer, "Don't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the tasseling corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn and impact my yields. If I am to grow quality, high yielding corn, I must help my neighbors grow quality corn."

As with this farmer several generations ago, we should aspire to live our lives by sharing with our neighbors and the members of First Christian. Those who desire to live meaningfully, successful lives should help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. For those who choose to be happy, help others find happiness and success, for the welfare of each of us is bound by the welfare of all of us. This is an aspect of living courageously.

As with the farmer in the story, we should live our lives by sharing our time and talents, as well as our tithes and offerings, with our neighbors. Ask yourself, how can you help First Christian enrich the lives of others, assist our neighbors? As you submit your "estimate of giving" pledge this year, please also consider your talents and skills and how you can use those to help First Christian and our neighbors, just like the farmer shared his seed corn. We have many talented and skilled members of First Christian and we need everyone to contribute their talents and skills for us to be successful in our lives and the life of the church.

I will end with a poem titled "Success" by Ralph Waldo Emerson. This poem exemplifies the message of living a courageous and a successful life.

What is Success?

To laugh often and much;

To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;

To earn the appreciation of honest critics

and endure the betrayal of false friends;

To appreciate beauty;

To find the best in others;

*To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child,
a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;*

To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived;

This is to have succeeded.



Live Courageously

News of the People

Healing...

Prayers of healing this week are extended to **Thelma Beem** who, as of printing, has been a patient at University Hospital since April 30. **Sarah Storm** continues to recover at home from wrist and upper thumb surgery. Continued prayers for **Carol Thomas** who has now returned home with chemotherapy continuing several 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.

Celebration Sunday for Rev. Jimmy Spear



May 23 Worship & Reception

To celebrate the 14 years Jimmy has served FCC, a celebration is being planned for his last Sunday, May 23. You will be an important part in making that day a success by your presence! The celebration will start with presentations in worship and continue with a reception in Yonker Fellowship Hall.

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

Home Worship for Sunday, May 9

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.

It is not difficult to be God's beloved child.

We are called to obey God's commandments and live in God's love!

It is good to know the ways which God ordains are ways of peace and hope.

We grow in the knowledge that love of God shall conquer the world.

Praise God for God's power and might, God's love and peace. Rejoice, O people of God, for God is near!

PRAYER.

God of songs and marvels, old and new, your powerful love for this world continues to astound us. In these last days of Easter, we worship recalling the love that brought Jesus into our lives and seek out ways to be that love to our neighbors. Your home is ours, and ours yours today, O God. Thank you. Amen.

Standing on the Promises

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.*

[Refrain:]

*Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]*

*Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]*

*Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
list'ning every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]*

By R. Kelso Carter (1891)

Tune: PROMISES Chalice Hymnal # 552

READ SCRIPTURE. 1 John 5:1-6

MEDITATION. *A combination*

We have long been told the truth. The truth of this life and faith concerns our creation as children of God. To be born of God is good news. There is much rejoicing in heaven and on earth for a life born of God and lived out in the ways of God.

The text from First John reminds us of the connection our "childhood" has to our love of God and the following of God's commandments. It is interesting that our following doesn't have to be a burden. Rather, it is the thing that can conquer the world! What? Our world is rather complicated and the BIG world is even worse! How can we conquer such an unwieldy thing? The answer lies in the notion of Jesus as one who came by water and blood. His life dedicated to God is shown in the water of baptism. We do the same as we dedicated our faith and future to God in the sacrament of baptism — as a child, youth or adult. The second part of Jesus is the blood. His commitment to us is found in his life's sacrifice as the Son of God. As we wrap up so much of our belief in the understanding of Jesus as God's Son, we are better able to see how such a sacrificial act is a connector for us to the love of God. It is powerful stuff to know that Jesus' commitment to God and to us is part of our own "childhood."

Our love of God and the following of God's commandments, through our belief in Jesus the Son, gets us right into the script as ones, who as children of God, are conquerors of the world. There are not many comic books or superpower movies that offer that kind of storyline. Good thing we have stuck close to the writing of the story all these years. 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 8: Chi-Rho—6:30-9:30pm at church

May 16: CYF —Noon at the Judy Home

Ultimate Frisbee and food.

Mission Trips...

CYF: May 28-31

Chi-Rho: June 6-8

Vacation Bible School

June 20-24 – evenings



Roll Thanks

Thanks to all who brought in the paper rolls and egg cartons. We are now at capacity. We will let you know when we need more!

Happy Birthday!



- May 9** Tori Pine, Ann Rogers
- May 10** Harlan Hackett, Laura Hutton, Wayne Meyer
- May 11** Mary Bancroft, Makali Hawkins
- May 12** Jacy Alexander, Ben Nelms
- May 13** Abigail Pine
- May 14** Linda Hutton
- May 15** Vaughan Dietzel



Happy Anniversary!

May 12 Don & Brenda Mosby (58 yrs)

Zoom Coffee Hour

A great group made months of coffee hour joy during the Winter. With the return to in-person worship, Zoom coffee hour has ended. Thanks to all who participated.