

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.

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

The Baptism of the Lord
Mark 1: 4-11

DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING



Jan. 11: Human Trafficking Awareness Day

"Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:17

Human trafficking, or trafficking in persons, is one of the world's largest organized criminal enterprises. Millions are held against their will for slave labor and/or sex work, including tens of thousands in the US. Thirty percent of them are children, mostly girls. Human trafficking is growing because slave labor is profitable and because poverty and marginalization makes so many vulnerable to exploitation.



Both the United Church of Christ and The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have passed resolutions against human trafficking. We call on members and congregations to engage in education about the issue of trafficking in persons and join advocacy efforts to end this

criminal and abusive practice. Use the link below to learn about trafficking and how to become advocates for those victimized by such human rights abuses.

[www.globalministries.org/human trafficking](http://www.globalministries.org/human_trafficking)

"From factories and brothels to farms and mines, millions of men, women and children in the United States and around the world are exploited for their bodies and their labor...In order to rid the world of modern slavery, we must do everything in our power to combat these violations of human decency."

—President Obama's Proclamation for 2017 National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

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 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

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.

the **VISITOR**

January 8, 2020
Vol. 79, No. 111

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, JAN. 10

- Coffee Hour, 9:30am, Zoom
- Virtual Worship, YouTube
- Youth Groups TBA

TUESDAY, JAN. 12

- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30pm, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13

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

SUNDAY, JAN 17

- Coffee Hour, 9:30am, Zoom
- Virtual Worship, YouTube
- Youth Groups TBA

Happy Birthday!

Jan. 10 Samantha Fullington,
Ava Hoenes, Darren Pine,
Cindy Rose

Jan. 12 Patricia Hoehle (92!)

Jan. 13 Jeff Alexander, Anastasia Palmer

Jan. 14 Brad Daugherty,

Nannie Lou Mallett (91!)

Jan. 15 Susan Ballard, Janet Mountjoy



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



Bit from Brad

A friend on social media posted during the last week of 2020 that they were staying up late on New Year's Eve not so much to see the New Year arrive but to make sure the previous year departed! Friends, "2020 has left the building!" Whew, what a year! I

remember when Dr. Richard "Dick" Hamm was our denomination's General Minister and President and how "way back then" in 2000, he cast a vision for the year 2020. Dick Hamm challenged our denomination to establish 1,000 new congregations by the year 2020. It was a big, hairy, audacious goal and 2020 seemed so far away. Thankfully, the Disciples of Christ achieved that goal two years early. But to me, 2020 sounded like a far off, idealistic time with an ideal goal, as if 2020 would help us see with 20/20 vision into a bold, new reality.

Wow, my expectations and idealization for 2020 could not have been further from the truth! What a tough year last year was! No one anticipated a global pandemic of this magnitude. Unfortunately, our difficulties haven't subsided yet, either. Though with the promise of vaccines beginning to make their way into our society, hope's light appears to be arising upon the horizon of the not too distant future. Thankfully!!

Whether we experience good times or hard, it's important we ask ourselves, "Where's God been for us through this experience?" As we enter 2021, I encourage you to reflect on how and where God impacted you this past year. What small or large mercies did God reveal to you? What bits of wisdom emerged from the Holy Spirit? How did love, redemption and/or justice unfold before you this past year? Did they appear as subtle as the unfolding of a flower's petals or did they appear abruptly, jarring your sensibilities? However God revealed Godself to you, I recommend you begin by recognizing each gift and then giving God thanks for each one.

Once you acknowledge and offer gratitude for these gifts, lay them before God in prayer and ask, "Lord, what now would You have me do with these gifts of mercy and bits of wisdom? How would You have me live differently this year than last year, now that these gifts have been made manifest in my life?" For, you are now a steward of these blessings, responsible for their blooming, and the fruit for which they are intended to bear. Only once these questions have been answered can we then make New Year's resolutions which will be pleasing to God.

May the Holy Spirit graciously direct your path this New Year!

Blessings, *Dr. Brad*

News of the People

Sympathy

Ellyn Brothers died on Tuesday, Dec. 29 at Lenoir Woods. She was 93. Ellyn and her late husband Bill were longtime members having joined FCC in 1969. A service is not planned at this time due to the pandemic.

Gratitude

I want to thank my church family for all the cards, phone calls, text messages and prayers. I found out how life can change so quickly, but with my faith and family, I knew everything was going to be fine. I am blessed to have recovered from most of my issues so quickly. God is with me. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and care. Love, **Janelle Patterson**

Wonderings

A church member recently inquired as to the origin of the nativity in the sanctuary at Christmas. The holy family was more prominently placed this year behind the communion table so as to be a part of the setting worship recordings on YouTube. The nativity set, which also includes three wise men, was donated in 2002 by Jay and Chris Creasy.

2021 Resolutions

If anyone resolved for 2021 to connect with church friends via Zoom meetings/gatherings/studies please contact the church office via email for more information. Sunday Coffee Hour information is listed on page 1.

Remember, if you need help navigating the online Zoom meetings, please ask. The church can help!

The Beginning of the Gospel and the End (of All Things)

Fifteenth Fred B. Craddock Seminar on the Gospels

Saturday, January 9, 10:00 am to 11:30 am ONLINE

As the earliest of the four Gospels, Mark takes us back to the beginnings of Christianity when the early church understood itself to be perched at the limits of history, and yet time has marched on. How did Christianity survive the initial failure of its end-times expectations? The Gospel of Mark and the letters of Paul give us some insight into the historical question, but it may be that they also have something hopeful to say in a new historical moment characterized by fear, uncertainty and change. In this seminar, we will dive into these scriptures in search of the spirit that animated the earliest Christians, and we will ask if that same spirit might grace us once again with new ways of finding life abundant. Registration fee is \$15.00. For more information or to register, go to www.brite.edu/stalcup. Registration includes on demand access to recording.

Patricia Duncan, PhD — Assistant Professor of Religion, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX — focuses her teaching and scholarship on the New Testament and Early Christianity. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago (MDiv and PhD) and an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Home Worship for January 10 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

OPENING WORDS.

Proclaim the glory and strength of God!

The Spirit of creation has recreated us.

Rejoice in the Holy Spirit who gives us life.

We remember our baptism and are thankful.

God has blessed us.

PRAYER.

Holy God, source of all that is good, we gather before you seeking your grace and love.

Be present in our lives.

Fill us with your light.

Be generous with your love.

Count us among your children.

Be compassionate toward our mistakes.

Forgive our failings.

Be gracious with your power.

Strengthen us for your service.

We ask these things through the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LIGHT.

Continue to light the Christ candle in these days as a reminder of the light now fully come to our embrace of a new year.

READ SCRIPTURE. Mark 2:4-11

MEDITATION. *Recalling Baptism.*

The baptism of Jesus found in today's text from Mark remind us of God's words and disciples' willingness to be washed anew found in the sacrament of baptism. The text reminds us to recall our own baptism.

If we think back to the place, time and the people who were present, we are transported to the moment where life and faith were changed simply or dramatically. Perhaps both. The remembrance and recollection are a way to reaffirm the vows and sacrament that are so central to our faith. If the time and place were told to us because our baptism was as a young child, perhaps a rededication of faith later in life is added to our memory — found when we became God's own.

The words spoken by God in response to Jesus' baptism also speak to our condition as one who is beloved and with whom God is well pleased. The model of Jesus' baptism — in water with the Holy Spirit — has lasted the ages. So does the repentance and forgiveness of sins proclaimed by the believer before baptism. This story of John the Baptist illustrates well our coming to Christ.

How is it that we come to Christ in these days? We come perhaps years from the baptismal act and yet are ready with words of repentance and the need for forgiveness. The recalling of water and Holy Spirit are as fresh in our memory as they are needed in our living. What a great mystery this faith of ours is to behold. It is full of community, yet also a solo act. There are full measures of both repentance and forgiveness, and God is ever present, yet very much on high. And so, we continue to be in awe of God's ways among us in these days... (-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.

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever,
and our confidence alone.*

*To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with all your faithful loving kindness,
hear your people as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.*

*Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you forever
with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.*

Latin hymn (7th century)

tr. John Mason Neale, 1851 Chalice Hymnal #275

Tune: REGENT SQUARE (Angels from the Realms of Glory)



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First Christian Church

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

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2021 Leadership Nomination Form

For a full breakdown of qualifications/duties for each role, as well as an electronic form for submissions, please visit firstchristian.org/nominations. **SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE JAN. 25TH.**

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

OFFICE: *Please check the position for which your nomination is being made:*

(FOR THE SERVICE BOARD): ELDER ____ DEACON ____ JR. DEACON ____

(FOR HONORARY): ELDER ____ DEACON ____

Why are you nominating this person? *(Attach a letter of support if you need more room):*

OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AWARDS

The Nominating Committee also requests nominations for Outstanding Service Awards.

PERSON YOU WISH TO RECOGNIZE: _____

Why are you recognizing this person? *(Attach a letter of support or use the back of this form.):* _____

Signed _____ Date _____