

The Church Bell

January 10, 2024

VOL. 30, ISSUE 1



327 East Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101-3003 (573-636-5157)

Rev. Alexis Engelbrecht to Serve FCCJC in 2024

We are pleased to share that Rev. Alexis Engelbrecht will serve the congregation once again in a role that is both similar to and different from what she has done with us in the past. She will be our Minister of Online Faith Formation and Public Theological Learning Experiences, which means she will design and facilitate four small online group experiences that meet once per week on a yearly basis. Each series will be between four and six weeks. Additional small groups might be offered, depending upon her availability and the needs of the congregation.

To find out more click this link: <https://forms.gle/dwmFeBdGz18XsFIN6>

For those of you who have not met Rev. Alexis, First Christian Church of Jefferson City sponsored her during her Ordination process and hosted her Ordination. Prior to her Ordination, she was our part-time Youth Director, then she served as our Assistant Minister. She now lives in Claremore, Oklahoma with her husband and their son. More information regarding how to be in touch with Rev. Alexis and our upcoming online learning opportunities will come shortly after she begins her role in January. For now, Alexis asks that we share how excited and grateful she is to be able to serve alongside the beloved members of this faith community.

In terms of our Mission and Strategic Plan, this sits within our desire to create opportunities to build stronger, genuine relationships amongst our congregational members and the community. Rev. Alexis will also help foster a strong, collaborative team of staff, as we press into what discipleship looks like for the church and for the Church beyond our walls in Jefferson City and beyond. Rev. Phil Snyder, who is an Associate Regional Minister for Mid-America, shared, "I'm really excited for this position. I think it serves as a wonderful model of what good hybrid ministry can look like in the digital age."

Funds for this will come from the Gary Gonder Memorial Fund. Gary was deeply involved in the work of discipleship and small group learning experiences. He and his wife Nancy helped start and lead a group of young adults who studied the Bible in light of contemporary events over many years. Nancy shared that, "Every Thursday evening Gary would close himself up in his room and prepare for each Sunday's study." Gary knew how deeply impactful the study of the Bible is in small groups that also fellowship together. This will honor Gary's memory in a beautiful way.

Peace,

Michael

Rev. Dr. Michael Dunn



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

A Christmas Haiku...

The gifts were given,

With much Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

May it always be.

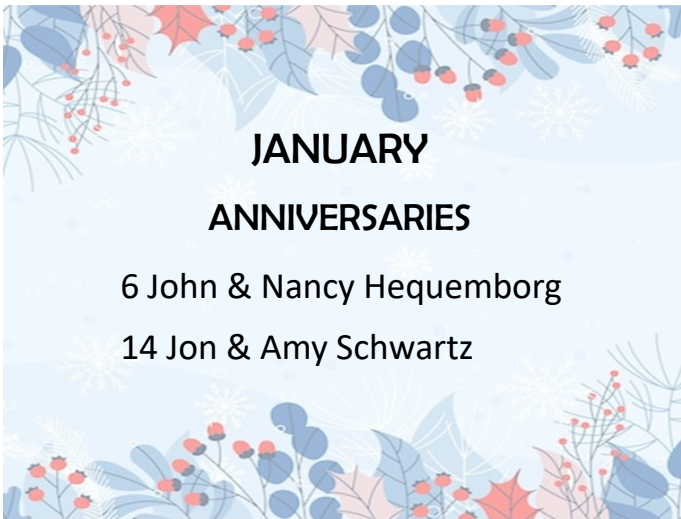
From a morning filled with the gift of Christmas caroling by 48 students to a morning fitting MANY gifts inside a vehicle, the First Christian Church family was generous to our business partner, East Elementary school. Thank you for providing your time (baking, shopping, delivering), talents (baking, gift wrapping, money) and treasures (joy, hope, love and peace) with the students, the staff and one specific family from East school this December. It was a very special time and I pray it will lead us into a blessed New Year.

Happy Epiphany!

Robin Grumm

East School Business Partners Coordinator





**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

6 John & Nancy Hequemborg
14 Jon & Amy Schwartz



**JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Melody Boling | 16 Cindy VanCamp |
| 1 Missy Mann | 18 Hayden Markway
Edwards |
| 2 John Giles | 18 Cecile Landrum |
| 3 Almira Clardy | 20 Nancy Hequemborg |
| 3 Raven Ballard | 23 Katy Ramirez |
| 4 Val Dunn | 23 David Reeves |
| 5 Dana Quinn
Johnson | 24 Dan McClard |
| 5 Talia Rose Jackson | 24 Sandy Zimmerman |
| 7 Ken Littlefield | 26 LeRoy Benton |
| 9 Allen Posz | 28 Chris Graham |
| 9 Richard Vaughan | 28 Jana Millard |
| 9 Steve Waters | 28 Abby Ramirez |
| 12 Sara Amick | 29 Marsha Graham |
| 13 John Miller | 29 John Kuebler |
| 14 Jeff Huedepohl | 30 Olivia Wood |
| 14 Millie Jones | 30 Gerald Massman |
| 14 Carolyn Sue Dahm | 31 Ethan Snyder |
| 15 Mrs. Sam B.
(Donna) Cook | 31 Sue Tussey |



**NEXT FCC BOARD MEETING
DATE HAS CHANGED:**

New Date is

January 23, 2024

at 6 p.m.

Our Members in Care Centers

HEISINGER-1002 WEST MAIN JC MO 65109
*SHIRLEY FERGUSON
BARBARA NIKODYN*

JC MANOR- 1720 VIETH DR. JC MO 65109
JACKIE POSSINGER

*LENOIR WOODS 3710 LENOIR ST.
COLUMBIA MO 65201
MARILYN BIESEMEYER*

PRIMROSE RETIREMENT
1214 FREEDOM BLVD JC MO 65109
*WENDELL & MYRA HUBBS
JOHN H. BENNETT*

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS
*MARIAM CRADDOCK, 640 Murphy's Ford Road,
Centertown, MO 65023*

OUR OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS
*BETTY SCHRAMM, 923 Battlefield St. Apt. C102,
Springfield MO 65807*

*BETTY SCHULTE, 13458 Burgess,
Riley Township MI 48041*

*ELAINE WEST, Brookdale Rosehill Skilled Nursing,
Room 115, 12809 Johnson Drive,
Shawnee, KS 66216*

Message from our Associate Minister

Hello God's Beloved!

I don't know about you, but there is just something I deeply appreciate about beginning a New Year. The fresh clean pages of a brand new calendar hold so much potential. I've been thinking about how to be intentional in the ways I fill up those blank pages this year. One of the ways I want to make sure I use my time is in getting to know you all better on a personal level. I am starting to put names and faces together, but I am eager to get to know your *stories and to hear about the things that matter most to you!*

So, let's get together for coffee or lunch, or even a walk if the weather is nice. Give me a call or catch me in person at the church (Sun-Thur) or send me an email at heather.fccjcmo@gmail.com so we can find a time that works for both of us. You can also use this [link to sign up](#) for a time and I will be in touch so we can work out the details.

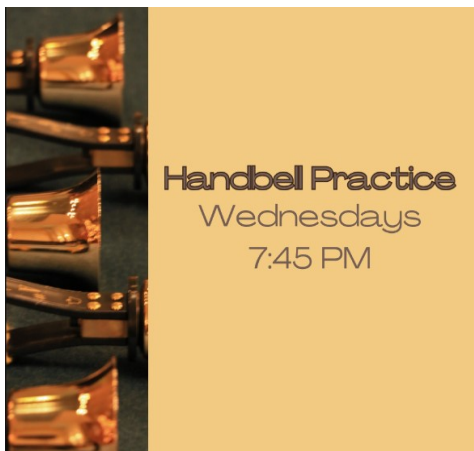
Can't wait to hear from you soon!

Peace,

Rev. Heather



Rev. Heather Patten



The Family of **NANCY DUNWIDDIE** wishes to thank everyone for all the support given to us over the past few months, during mom's recent illness and passing. Thank you for all the calls, texts, visits, cards, food and prayers.

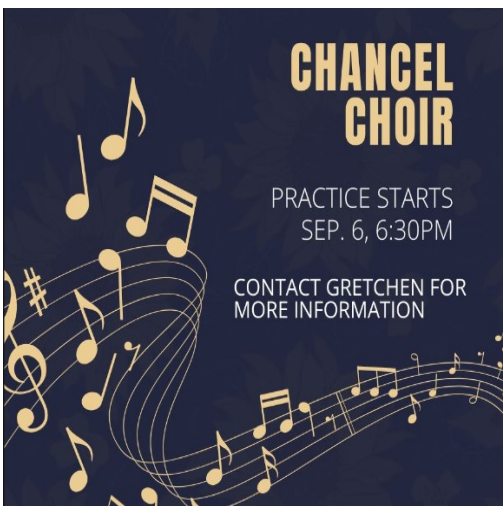
Thank you, also, for all who contributed in any way, to be beautiful memorial service and luncheon.

Thank You

Your love and support, during this difficult time, will never be forgotten.

Thank you!

Jim, Russ, and Kathy Dunwiddie



Sanctuary Flowers

Floral arrangements (\$29.95) may be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one. The "Sanctuary Flowers Schedule" notebook located on the table in front of the chapel, is available to register your chosen date thru the balance of 2023 and all of 2024. Be sure to indicate whether the flowers are in "memory" or in "honor" of your loved one. Payment may be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering plate.

Please Pray for OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Beverly Anderson, close friend of Sharon Gonder
The Blosser Family
Kathy and Steve Brown
The Claycomb Family
Karla Denny
The family of Ian Dunlap (Leslie, Liam, Lanie, Steve Waters and Cecile Landrum)
The family of Nancy Dunwiddie (Jim, Russ and Kathy)
Sharon Gonder
Brooks Jarrett, brother of Annie Jarrett
Calise Lauf, friend of Sharon Gonder
Cindy Leveron
Greg Maire, fighting cancer
Dan and Sandy Meade, brother and sister-in-law of Mary Ann Weaver
The Osman Family
Eva Pratt
Sheri Skalak, Milinda Dawson's roommate
Elaine West

Our Country and our men and women serving our country, and the world, for safe travels.

Please call the office at 573-636-5157 or email at fccjcmooffice@gmail.com if you would like continued prayers for an individual or if an individual can now be removed from the list. Thank you!

Looking for God Over Your Shoulder: Contemplative Practices for Older Disciples Series



The National Benevolent Association is offering a series of four zoom meetings led by our own Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. Paul Koch. Each session will offer guided scripture, devotion, prayer, and sharing with older adults in mind. The dates for this series are:

January 16, 23, 30 and February 6 at 11 a.m.



Middle and High School
Youth Lock In
January 13-14
Broadway Christian Church
Columbia, MO

MID-AMERICA YOUTH LOCK-IN
JANUARY 13-14 2021
@ BROADWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
COLUMBIA, MO

IMAGINE A WORLD WITH MORE...
JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE WHAT MORE THE WORLD NEEDS THAT YOUTH CAN BEST PROVIDE... YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

SATURDAY
11:00AM-1:00PM
REGISTRATION + SACK LUNCH
1:00PM PROGRAM BEGINS

SUNDAY
8:00AM BREAKFAST
OPTIONAL
10:30AM WORSHIP
12:00-3:00PM LUNCH + MIX ACTIVITIES

OPEN TO MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
\$30 PER STUDENT
SNEAK PEEK OF MID-AMERICA SUMMER CAMPS

QUEST PRIMER:
ALEXIS TARDY
COORDINATOR FOR MINISTRY WITH YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS
DISCIPLES HOME MISSIONS-- INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 2024 LEADERSHIP

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Chair: Ann Littlefield
Vice Chair: Don Lloyd
Treasurer: Bob Robuck
Secretary: Brenda Johnson
Ministry Team Chair: Sandy Robinson
Personnel Chair: Doug Hagenhoff
Property Chair: Rich Green
Stewardship Chair: LeRoy Benton
Leadership Development Chair:
 Karla Denny
Elders Chair: David Avery
Deacons Chair: Jan Alexander
Immediate Past Chair: Allen Posz
At Large Members:
 2024 Wanda King
 Cindy Blosser
 2025 Nike Thompson
 Missy Mann
 2026 Lauren Eichelberger
 Bob Priddy

Elders

2024	David Avery (Chair)	Ray Miles
	Melanie Highland	Patty Osman
	Ann Littlefield	Jon Prouty
	Barb Kuebler	John Kuebler
	Sherry Jordan	
2025	Cindy Leveron	Barbara Gulick
	Pat Amick	Rita Starnes
	Dale Findlay	Joyce Wagner
	Susan Vaughn	

Ministry Team

Chair: Sandy Robinson
Missions Team Chair: John Blosser
Evangelism Team Chair: Karen Shroyer
Congregational Care Chair: Marsha Posz, Wanda King
Worship Team : Carolyn Green
Christian Formation Chair: Terri Lloyd
Fellowship Team Chair: Nancy Samp
Communications Chair: Blair Johnson

Personnel Committee

2024	Shaun Crisp	Susan Vaughn
2025	Alan Nelson	Bill Marshall
2026	Georgia Griffith	Jon Prouty
	Doug Hagenhoff, Chair	

Leadership Development Team appointments by Board

Chair

2024	Jeanne Nelson	Karla Denny (Chair)
2025	Judy Brooks	Sally Robuck
2026	Donna Brown	Jon Prouty

Deacons

2024	Jan Alexander (Chair)	Sandy Robinson
	Allen Posz	Bobbi Enslin
	Ken Littlefield	Amanda Prouty
	Jessica Bivins Saylor	Missy Mann
	Kathy Dunwiddie	Russ Duinwiddie
	Francis Benton	LeRoy Benton
	Georgia Griffith	Corey Dawson
	Shelley Dawson	Nancy Samp
	Emma Mann	
2025	Bob Priddy	Thelma Robertson
	Don Lloyd	Travis Jackson
	Lily Foutes	Sydney Foutes
	Barb Gage	Foutes Family (Prep)
	Karen Shroyer (Prep)	Meghan Andrews (Prep)
	Milinda Dawson (Prep)	Jeanne Nelson
	Judy Naught	Jenny Hagenhoff
	Toni McNeal	Hollis Dunn
	Alan Nelson	Katelyn Rush
	Rick Naught	



CREATING VITAL CONGREGATIONS WEBINAR CONFRONTING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

with **Dan Miller and Beau Underwood**

January 17, 2024

7-8:30 p.m. ET

*Co-Sponsored by The Alumni Council of Lexington Theological Seminary
and the Reconciliation Team of the Christian Church in Kentucky*

There's a growing awareness about the dangers Christian Nationalism poses to both American democracy and the message of the Gospel. How did this ideology that conflates American identity with a narrow understanding of Christianity take hold? What can be done to address it? This webinar will explore Christian Nationalism's ideas and goals, while offering some practical ways those concerned about its influence can offer a faithful counter witness to its fusion of church and state.



Dan Miller is Professor of Religion and Social Thought in the Department of Liberal Studies at Landmark College in Putney, VT. He is the author of two books, *The Myth of Normative Secularism: Religion and Politics in the Democratic Home-world* (Duchesne University Press, 2016) and *Queer Democracy: Desire, Dysphoria, and the Body Politic* (Routledge, 2022), as well as other articles and book chapters. He is also the co-host of the popular podcast *Straight White American Jesus*, where he discusses issues related to Christian nationalism, Religion and American Politics, and the coded language and practices of popular American Christianity. He is also a Trauma Resolution Practitioner with the Center for Trauma Resolution and Recovery, in which capacity he serves as a coach helping individuals to process religious trauma.

Beau Underwood is the senior pastor at Allisonville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis, IN, a contributing editor with *Word&Way*, and a doctoral candidate in public affairs at the University of Missouri. Prior to entering congregational ministry, he worked in progressive faith-based advocacy in Washington, D.C. He is the co-author (with Brian Kaylor) of the forthcoming book from Chalice Press: *Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism*.



CALL 573-636-5157 TO REGISTER

SENIOR MINISTER
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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL RECORDS & QUESTIONS?

Call 573-636-5157 or email to
fccjcmooffice@gmail.com

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES:
Please contact Rev/ Michael Dunn
at 713-447-5954.

For non-emergency church-related items after working hours, Monday thru Friday 8AM to 5PM, we have an answering machine. Please feel free to call the church (573-636-5157) at any time and leave a message.

NOTE: IF YOU LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE ON SATURDAY, OR SUNDAY, IT WILL NOT BE CHECKED UNTIL MONDAY MORNING. THANK YOU.



The next *Church Bell* will be sent January 24, 2024. (Articles are due by noon The Friday before)



MOBILE GIVING
-TEXT 4842368 TO
715-803-4772
AND FOLLOW THE
PROMPTS ON YOUR PHONE

**-DOWNLOAD THE
"GIVERS APP"
(FROM CONTINUE TO GIVE)**



Zoom Meeting Room meeting ID is **2202286773**. If you need the password, please contact the church office at 573-636-5157 or one of our leaders. To join in on our free conference calls, dial (716) 427-1083 and enter access code 444928.

Please email or call Tina Mollenkamp: tinamolenkamp@cgcb.org/573-522-4314, if you would like to be on Common Grounds email newsletter list, regular mailing list, or both. As an alternative, you can also sign up for the email newsletters on their website at www.cgcb.org.



Who Are We? We call ourselves Disciples,
a community of believers who follow Jesus by Worshiping God,
Growing in Faith, Serving our Community.
Bound to each other in Christ's love,
we discover our life together through *sharing* life with the world.

You may give online at firstchristianjcmo.org/donate

THANK YOU

First Christian Church supports and welcomes the wearing of masks at your own comfort level.

WEBSITES YOU NEED TO STAY CONNECTED

Mid-America Updates: <http://www.mid-americadisciples.org/newsletter-signup/>
Disciples News Service Updates: <http://disciples.org/dns/subscribe-to-dns/>
Disciples Together (Resources for Pastors): <http://disciples.org/dns/disciples-together?>

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